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THE MANDATE, ABRIDGED

THE ETHEREUM FOUNDATION

ETHEREUM WAS BORN OUT OF A DREAM.

A DREAM FOR FREEDOM. NOT JUST FOR ONE, NOT JUST FOR MANY, BUT FOR ALL WHO ARE READY TO GRASP IT WITH THEIR OWN HANDS.

ETHEREUM IS MEANT TO BE A LIBERATORY TECHNOLOGY — NOT JUST FROM POWER RELATIONS THAT ARE IMPOSED WITHOUT TRUE CONSENT OR WHERE DISSENT IMPOSES A HEAVY PRICE, BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, FROM ATTEMPTS TO ORDER REALITY ITSELF IN A WAY THAT LEAVES NO ALTERNATIVE.

THE FOUNDATION IS NOT THE PARENT, OWNER, OR RULER OF ETHEREUM. WE ARE NOT "THE SYSTEM" ITSELF. OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IS FOR ETHEREUM TO PASS THE WALKAWAY TEST: ITS PROTOCOL AND CORE APPLICATION LAYERS BECOME ROBUST AND TRUSTLESS ENOUGH THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO RELIABLY FUNCTION AND EVOLVE EVEN IF THE FOUNDATION AND TODAY'S CORE DEVELOPERS DISAPPEARED TOMORROW.

OUR BOTTOM LINE IS THE MISSION OF SECURING ETHEREUM'S RESILIENCE. IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY FOR US TO ENSURE THAT ETHEREUM UPHOLDS AND CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES:

CENSORSHIP RESISTANCE
OPEN SOURCE AND FREE, AS IN FREEDOM
PRIVACY
SECURITY

WE HOLD THAT THESE PROPERTIES — CROPS — MUST REMAIN, AS AN INDIVISIBLE WHOLE, THE SINE QUA NON OF ALL ETHEREUM'S DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES, WHICH CANNOT BE DISPLACED. THEY ARE ETHEREUM'S MOST IMPORTANT PROPERTIES AND ARE INSEPARABLE FROM ITS SUCCESS.

ALL WORK MUST BE ARCHITECTED TO BE MAXIMALLY UNSTOPPABLE AND TO FUNCTION WITHOUT INCORPORATING CENTRALIZED INTERMEDIARIES OR KILL SWITCHES.

THE PURPOSE OF PRIVACY IS TO PREVENT STRUCTURAL POWER ASYMMETRIES FROM INFRINGING ON SELF-SOVEREIGNTY AND SELF-SOVEREIGN COORDINATION. HISTORY SHOWS US THAT THE WIELDERS OF POWER, ONCE THEY GAIN THE ABILITY TO RESTRICT OR EVEN DE-NORMALIZE PRIVACY, WILL NEVER SURRENDER THE ADVANTAGE THEY OBTAIN. HENCE, PRIVACY MUST BE PERMISSIONLESS AND AVAILABLE TO ALL.

TRUE SECURITY PROTECTS BOTH SYSTEM AND USERS FROM TECHNICAL FAILURE, SOCIAL ENTRAPMENT, AND COERCION.

OUR MANDATE IS WRITTEN FOR A THOUSAND-YEAR HORIZON. PRINCIPLED ADHERENCE IS SUBJECT TO DRIFT AND EROSION OVER TIME — LIKE WATER, STANDARDS TEND TO FLOW FROM HIGH TO LOW, AND ARE FAR EASIER TO LOSE THAN TO REGAIN. WE ARE STARTING AS HIGH AS WE CAN, TO SLOW ANY LONG-RUN EROSION OVER CENTURIES, SO WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY MATERIAL COMPROMISE WITHIN OUR LIFETIMES.

MAY THE FOUNDATION FALL ON ITS OWN SWORD IF IT FAILS TO UPHOLD ITS SOLEMN PROMISE TO ETHEREUM ♡

A BILLION USERS IN A CENTRALIZED SILO IS NOT A SUCCESS; DESIGNING AROUND THE ENSHRINEMENT OF CENTRALIZED EXTRACTION PIPELINES IN THE PROTOCOL IS NOT A SUCCESS; IT IS A FAILURE OF MISSION.

WE EXERCISE COURAGE TO MAKE HARD, POTENTIALLY UNPOPULAR, DECISIONS BASED ON PRINCIPLED ASSESSMENTS RATHER THAN MARKET PRESSURE OR INSTITUTIONAL COMFORT. WE ACCEPT THAT REJECTING AND REFORMING COMPROMISED DEFAULTS IS PART OF OUR WORK. WE DEFEND OUR DECISIONS WITH PATIENCE AND TRUTHFULNESS.

OUR OPERATING APPROACH CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS A PROCESS OF SUBTRACTION FOR RESILIENCE. THIS IS WHY SUBTRACTION IS A DEFINITIVE SIGNAL OF SUCCESS. THE MORE ETHEREUM SUCCEEDS, THE TINIER WE BECOME; IF ETHEREUM FAILS, SO TOO WILL WE PERISH. SUBTRACTION WILL OCCUR EITHER WAY, SO WE CHOOSE SUCCESS.

ADOPTION CAN BE EARNED OVER TIME, BUT PRINCIPLED GROUND ONCE CEDED IS FAR HARDER TO REGAIN. OUR HORIZON IS BROADER THAN CRYPTO: ETHEREUM'S PROMISE ONLY HOLDS IF IT SERVES SELF-SOVEREIGNTY BEYOND ANY ONE SUBCULTURE, ASSET CLASS, OR INDUSTRY.

THE WORLD COMPUTER IS DECENTRALIZED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PERMISSIONLESS COMPUTE, COMMUNICATION, AND ASSOCIATION, AND IT NATURALLY CONNECTS TO BUILDERS WHO UPHOLD THOSE FREEDOMS: OPEN SOURCE PROJECTS, PRIVACY AND CRYPTOGRAPHY RESEARCHERS, CIVIL LIBERTIES DEFENDERS, EDUCATORS AND PUBLIC-INTEREST TECHNOLOGISTS, BUILDERS OF RESILIENT LOCAL

COMMUNITIES, AND THE QUIET MAINTAINERS OF CIVILIZATION WHO KEEP ESSENTIAL SYSTEMS AND TRADITIONS RUNNING.

WE REMEMBER THAT WE REQUIRE OF THEM NO AESTHETIC CONFORMITY, ONLY PRINCIPLED ALIGNMENT: WHEN PEOPLE SHARE THE INSTINCT TO KEEP SYSTEMS FORKABLE, CENSORSHIP RESISTANT, PRIVATE, AND SECURE, WE TREAT THEM AS FELLOW TRAVELERS OF THE PATH AND FELLOW STEWARDS OF THE INFINITE GARDEN. OUR LOOSE COALITION DOES NOT NEED TO BE PUT TOGETHER. IT IS TOGETHER.

FOR A LONG TIME, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PUSHED TO BELIEVE THAT WE ONLY HAVE TWO BAD CHOICES. BUT THERE ARE THOSE WHO ABJURE THIS BELIEF: IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE THIS WAY. ETHEREUM REJECTS THE IDEA THAT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE.

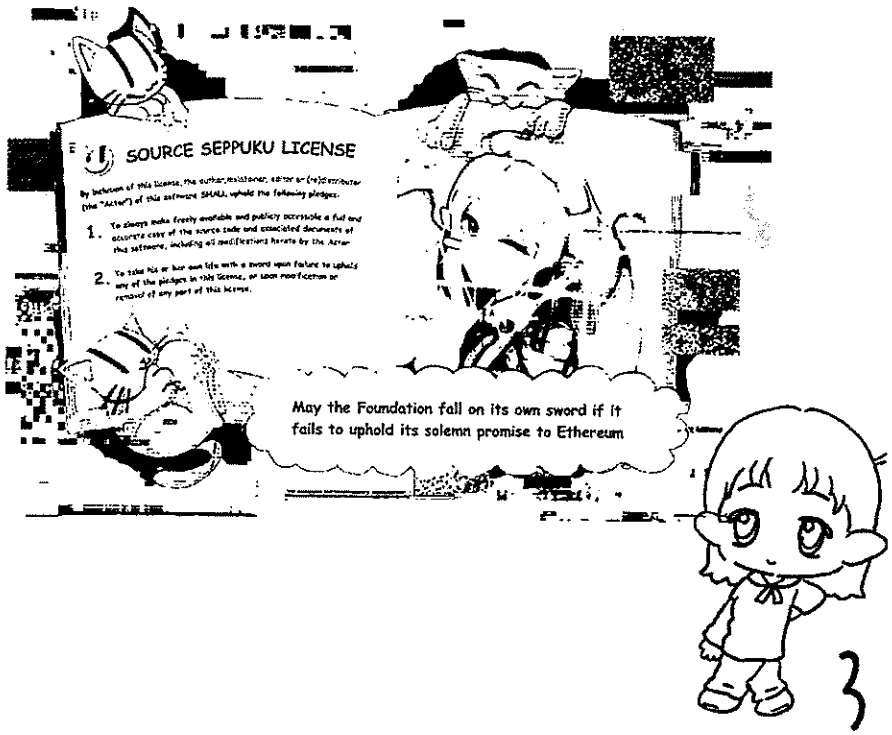
ETHEREUM IS A TOOL THAT COUNTLESS PEOPLE — INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES — ARE INDEPENDENTLY USING TO BUILD RESILIENT SANCTUARIES FROM THIS CONTEST OF POWER: SHELTERS FROM IDEOLOGICAL PSYCHODRAMA, WHERE ANYONE CAPABLE OF TAKING REFUGE CAN LIVE NEITHER OPPRESSED NOR OPPRESSING, AND WHERE THEY CAN BE LEFT TO THEIR PURSUITS OF HAPPINESS. ALTERNATIVES EXIST. TRUST HOPE, EMBRACE RESILIENCE.

WE ARE HERE TO UNCAPTURE THE INDIVIDUAL, AND TO ENTRENCH THEIR FREEDOMS OF ASSOCIATION. WE PROVIDE THE TOOLS AND THE DIGITAL SPACE NEEDED FOR THIS CIVILIZATION-SCALE PROJECT, ONE THAT IS OPEN TO ANYONE WILLING TO CLAIM SELF-SOVEREIGNTY WITH THEIR OWN HANDS, THAT IS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH NOTHING TO LOSE BUT THEIR BARBED WIRE FENCES.

ETHEREUM IS SO OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T RUG YOU; SOCIETY CAN'T RUG YOU; YOUR GOVERNMENT CAN'T RUG YOU; ANOTHER GOVERNMENT CAN'T RUG YOU; CORPORATIONS CAN'T RUG YOU; INSTITUTIONS CAN'T RUG YOU; AI CAN'T RUG YOU; MOUNTAIN MEN CAN'T RUG YOU; YOUR FAMILY CAN'T RUG YOU; AND SO YOU DON'T ACCIDENTALLY RUG YOURSELF EITHER.

WE HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE TORCH OF LIBERTY AND WE MUST KEEP IT BURNING BRIGHT UNTIL THE TIME COMES TO PASS IT ON AS IT WAS PASSED TO US. FOR WE ARE BUILDING NOTHING LESS THAN THE MACHINERY OF FREEDOM — NOT JUST FOR TODAY, BUT FOR THE NEXT THOUSAND YEARS. THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN THE WORK WILL BE THANKLESS; THE JOURNEY WILL BE ARDUOUS; THE PATH WILL BE LONELY. BUT EVERY ROAD TO THE STARS FIRST PASSES THROUGH DARKNESS.

E QUINDI USCIMMO A RIVEDER LE STELLE.



WE LOVE HARDER

TIM CLANCY

OUR LOVE DRAWS CRITICISM.

WHEN THE ETHEREUM FOUNDATION PUBLISHED THE MANDATE, WE WERE ELATED. WE HAD FOUND IN ETHEREUM'S PRIMARY STEWARDS A DECLARATION OF CONVICTION ON PAR WITH OUR OWN.

IT IS INVIGORATING THAT A MAJOR GUARDIAN IS WILLING TO STAKE ITS LIFE ON CROPS AT AN HOUR WHEN FREE SPEECH, FREE SOFTWARE, FREE ASSOCIATION AND A FREE INTERNET ARE UNDER GLOBAL ATTACK;

THAT A TRADITIONALLY NEUTRAL ORGANIZATION IS WILLING TO LOOK FRIENDS, MONEY AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE EYE AND SAY "YOU ARE WRONG AND UNETHICAL, UNWILLING TO DO THINGS THE RIGHT WAY, A MISTAKE I WILL NOT MAKE."

WE HAD BEEN TOLD FOR YEARS THAT WE WERE ALONE IN OUR VIRTUOUS EXTREMISM, YET THE MANDATE TOLD US OTHERWISE.

THEN CAME THE BACKLASH.

TOO MANY DISMISS THE MANDATE AS UNPRAGMATIC OR CULTISH.

TOO MANY PROFESS ALIGNMENT WITH ITS VALUES YET REFUSE TO PLEDGE THEMSELVES TO IT.

TOO MANY OF THOSE WHO SHOULD BE MOST DEDICATED TO ETHEREUM TURNED OUT TO BE AT ODDS WITH ITS MOST DEDICATED BELIEVERS, AND THE ONLY HONEST EXPLANATION WE COULD FIND FOR THE GAP IS THIS:

WE LOVE ETHEREUM HARDER. OUR GENUINE ADORATION FOR THE CAUSE IS BASED ON AN ABUNDANT FAITH THAT FEW CAN MUSTER.

WE ARE NOT ASHAMED OF LOVING HARDER, AND WE INTEND TO CONTINUE LOVING AS HARD AS WE CAN.

"BE REASONABLE, BE PRAGMATIC, AND MEET THEM HALFWAY." WE REFUSE. REASON LEADS TO A COLD PRAGMATIC EFFICIENCY THAT ERODES CORE VALUES OVER THE LONG TERM BY CONSTANTLY MAKING SMALL SACRIFICES; REASON IS A SOULLESS DEATH BY ONE THOUSAND COMPROMISES.

ETHEREUM MUST DO AWAY WITH MILQUETOAST KUMBAYA OF ACCEPTING COMPROMISE.

THIS IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO FINANCIAL NIHILISM, THE CREEPING TOLERANCE OF CLOSED-SOURCE AND PERMISSIONED GATEKEEPERS, AND THE SAPPING OF ALL INSPIRATION.

TRUSTFUL L2S WEAR ETHEREUM LIKE A SKINSUIT.

THE DREAMS OF DEFI DEVOLVE INTO MULTISIGFI. WEAKER SOULS FIND PRAGMATIC REASONS NOT TO BE BRAVE.

THE HOUR IS LATE ENOUGH THAT RIGHTEOUS AGGRESSION IS REQUIRED, AND THE OLD PASSIVE ELEMENTS OF THIS CULTURE RECOIL AGAINST MILADY FOR THE EXACT REASON THAT MILADY MUST EXIST: BECAUSE WE ARE THE PRINCIPLED AGGRESSORS.

THAT WHICH IS DIRTIED TENDS TO LASH OUT AGAINST ITS NEEDED CLEANSE, AFTER ALL.

THIS IS A MISSION, A CALLING, AND A CRUSADE.

IT IS NOT EASY TO BE HERE. IT IS NOT COMFORTABLE TO BE HERE, UNTIL YOU DECIDE TO LOG ON TO WIN FOREVER AND HAVE FUN ON THE COMPUTER ONLINE.

IT REQUIRES LEGITIMATE DEVOTION TO BE A PALADIN DAY AFTER DAY.

IT REQUIRES HONESTLY RECOGNIZING HOW FEW ARE ACTUALLY WILLING TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE, AND WE DO NOT PRETEND OTHERWISE.

> THEREFORE, MY BELOVED BROTHERS, BE FIRM, STEADFAST, ALWAYS FULLY DEVOTED TO THE WORK OF THE LORD, KNOWING THAT IN THE LORD YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN. *(1 CORINTHIANS 15:58)*

FAITH IS WHAT WE NEED NOW. FAITH LOOKS AT A PRINCIPLE AND TAKES THE HARDEST POSSIBLE STANCE. FAITH DOES NOT WAVER WHEN THE WINDS CHANGE,

WHEN THE COMPETITOR SHIPS FASTER, WHEN THE EASIER PATH OPENS, WHEN YOUR FRIENDS GROW TIRED AND FALL AWAY.

FAITH IS HOW YOU LOOK AT A VALUE SYSTEM AND REFUSE TO COMPROMISE ON IT, NO MATTER WHAT. FAITH IS BELIEF IN A REASON TO PRACTICE MORAL DISCERNMENT AND TO POSSESS AN INVIOLABLE SENSE OF ETHICS.

FAITH IS WHAT A THOUSAND-YEAR MACHINE REQUIRES OF THE PEOPLE WHO BUILD IT.

MILADY LOVES ETHEREUM AND OUR FAITH IS UNSHAKEABLE.

THE MANDATE: COUNTER-COUNTERREVOLUTION

BONKLE K.

WHY ARE YOU HERE? HERE, AT THIS CONFERENCE. HERE, IN THIS SOCIAL ECOSYSTEM. HERE, IN THIS INDUSTRY.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

CRYPTOCURRENCY IS A REVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL PROJECT IN DEFENSE OF FREEDOM.

TO MANY, IT IS LESS SERIOUS THAN ALL THAT. THAT'S FINE. YOU ARE JUST NOT FIT FOR ANY EFFECTIVE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. BECAUSE THIS IS NOT 'A HOBBY.'

CAREFREE CONTRIBUTION WILL FALTER IN THE FACE OF REPRESSION STILL TO COME. NEITHER IS THIS 'A JOB.'

A PAYCHECK CANNOT COMPROMISE YOUR VALUES. AND THIS IS NOT 'A COMMUNITY.'

YOUR FRIENDSHIPS DO NOT SUPERSEDE YOUR PURPOSE. HOLD THESE STANDARDS AND WATCH AS MOST OF THOSE "IN CRYPTO" FALL AWAY.

THIS IS EXACTLY THE TEST THE ETHEREUM FOUNDATION HELD WITH ITS MANDATE. IT WAS A PUBLIC TEST FOR COMMITMENT TO FREE SPEECH, FREE ASSOCIATION, FREE MARKETS, FREE INFORMATION, AND FREE THOUGHT.

ITS AESTHETICS ALONE WERE ENOUGH TO REVEAL FALSE COMMITMENTS TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH, ASSOCIATION, AND THOUGHT.

ITS ACTIVE DECENTRALIZATION OF THE SOCIAL GRAPH WAS ENOUGH TO UNMASK PETTY RELIANCE ON RENT EXTRACTION IN AN ERRONEOUS CENTRAL HUB.

ITS CLARITY IN PURPOSE WAS ENOUGH TO DRAW OUT THE ALT-L1 ENVIOUS.

ITS UNCOMPROMISING PRIVACY WAS ENOUGH TO ENRAGE KYC-SHILLS CHASING HEADPATS FROM INCUMBENTS.

...

LET'S DRAW OUT THESE CAMPS.

THE GREAT FIRING OF EF-CAREERISTS

> "IF PRIVACY IS OUTLAWED, ONLY OUTLAWS WILL HAVE PRIVACY."
> *- PHIL ZIMMERMANN, "WHY DO YOU NEED PGP?" (1994)*

THE MANDATE IS CLEAR: SUBTRACTION IS SUCCESS. WHY? A NETWORK'S CENTER IS A CENTRAL POINT OF FAILURE. WE REFUSE CENTRAL NODES.

TAKE CLIENT DIVERSITY - THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT DEFENSE OF OUR PERFECT UPTIME RECORD. SO FAR THIS HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED THROUGH RESILIENCE TO BUGS, BUT HAVE WE SEEN PERSONNEL INFILTRATION?

MANY FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THE CYPHERPUNK'S HEALTHY PARANOID SECURITY SYSTEM AGAINST TOTALITARIAN REPRESSION, SO LOOK TO THE DRIFT HACK.

IT'S NOT YOUR STATE, BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK LAZARUS IS THE PEAK OF STATE ATTACK CAPACITY? WE MUST HAVE DIVERSITY AND REDUNDANCY SO THAT ANY ONE COMPROMISED NODE DOES NOT TAKE DOWN THE NETWORK.

THE ETHEREUM FOUNDATION MUST NOT BE A CENTRAL POINT OF FAILURE.

THE EF THUS FAR HAS BEEN THE HUB AROUND WHICH PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT ORBITS. THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A WEAKNESS;

THE BEST BUILDERS DEPENDENT ON SOCIAL AND MONETARY REMUNERATION EMANATING FROM THIS CENTER. AN END TO THIS WEAKNESS WAS LONG OVERDUE.

BUILDERS MUST FAN OUT AND DIVERSIFY THEIR SUBSISTENCE TO ATTAIN INDEPENDENT MEANS OF INDEPENDENCE.

THE MANDATE TO SIGN THE MANDATE WAS A MASTERSTROKE IN DECENTRALIZING THE SOCIAL GRAPH.

HAD ALL EMPLOYEES SIGNED, THE EF WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE HAD TO FIND A NEW MEANS OF FORCING HATCHLINGS FROM THE NEST. BUT WHO TO KEEP?

THE IDEOLOGICAL CONFUSION OF INCLUSIVE-CENTRALISTS

> "WE CANNOT EXPECT GOVERNMENTS, CORPORATIONS, OR OTHER LARGE, FACELESS ORGANIZATIONS TO GRANT US PRIVACY OUT OF THEIR BENEFICENCE. … WE MUST DEFEND OUR OWN PRIVACY IF WE EXPECT TO HAVE ANY. WE MUST COME TOGETHER AND CREATE SYSTEMS WHICH ALLOW ANONYMOUS TRANSACTIONS TO TAKE PLACE. … WE WILL NOT, HOWEVER, BE MOVED OUT OF OUR COURSE BECAUSE SOME MAY DISAGREE WITH OUR GOALS."
> *- ERIC HUGHES, "A CYPHERPUNK'S MANIFESTO" (1993)*

ONLY THE MOST DEDICATED, ONLY THOSE BEST-SUITED FOR A REVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL PROJECT OUGHT TO REMAIN. THIS IS OBVIOUS PROPER PERSONNEL SELECTION.

THE MORE CONTROVERSIAL THE VALUES, THE BETTER THE FILTERING.

THE EF SUCCESSFULLY SIFTED DEDICATED CYPHERPUNKS FROM THE COMPROMISING. EFFECTIVE REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS OPERATE WITH SINGULARITY OF PURPOSE.

THIS IS THE BASIC PREREQUISITE. THE MANDATE'S FALLOUT SAW WAVE AFTER WAVE OF ENTITLEMENT TO DISSENT.

THEY ACT AS THOUGH THEY'VE BEEN WRONGLY BANNED - PROVING THEY HAVE NO CLEAR CONCEPTION OF WHAT ETHEREUM IS.

WHEN IN THE HISTORY OF REVOLUTION HAVE THE REVOLUTIONARIES PREDICATED THEIR DEDICATIONS ON A SALARY?

IF YOU TRULY VALUE THIS PROJECT, YOU WILL CONTINUE IN YOUR OWN ORGANIZATIONS.

THERE IS NOTHING ESSENTIAL ABOUT THE EF. INSISTING OTHERWISE WILL ONLY WEAKEN ETHEREUM.

THIS INSISTENCE IS JUST AS MUCH A WISH AS IT IS A DESCRIPTION.

IF YOUR NOTION OF TOLERANCE HAS INTOLERANCE, YOU ARE UNALIGNED WITH ETHEREUM.

OTHERWISE, WHY SHOULDN'T ETHEREUM CENSOR TRANSACTIONS?

WHY NOT TRY AND BAN HOSTILE, DISTASTEFUL, ILLEGAL ACTORS? THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE IRRELEVANT BECAUSE THE ACTIONS SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.

ANYTHING LESS IS AN UNACCEPTABLE ACCEPTANCE OF CENSORSHIP. THE EF WOULD BE HYPOCRITICAL TO ENTERTAIN ANYTHING OF THE SORT.

THE TRAP OF USD-OPPORTUNISTS

> "THE TECHNOLOGY FOR THIS REVOLUTION--AND IT SURELY WILL BE BOTH A SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REVOLUTION--HAS EXISTED IN THEORY FOR THE PAST DECADE. THE METHODS ARE BASED UPON PUBLIC-KEY ENCRYPTION, ZERO-KNOWLEDGE INTERACTIVE PROOF SYSTEMS, AND VARIOUS SOFTWARE PROTOCOLS FOR INTERACTION, AUTHENTICATION, AND VERIFICATION. … THE STATE WILL OF COURSE TRY TO SLOW OR HALT THE SPREAD OF THIS TECHNOLOGY, … BUT THIS WILL NOT HALT THE SPREAD OF CRYPTO ANARCHY."
> *- TIMOTHY MAY, "THE CRYPTO ANARCHIST MANIFESTO" (1988)*

THE ONGOING STABLECOIN WAR HAS ROUSED THE WEAKEST LINKS AMONG US.

IN THE FACE OF TRULY ASTONISHING FIGURES, THE WEAK CHASE YIELD THROUGH CENTRALIZATION.

TO THOSE WHO CALL THIS MODEST COMPROMISE MEANS TO ENDS, WE SAY: YOU ARE NOT WANTED NOR WELCOME.

CENTRALIZED STABLECOIN PAYMENTS ARE JUST A HIGH THROUGHPUT SHARED VIRTUAL MACHINE FOR UPDATING A DATABASE OF WALLET BALANCES RUNNING ACROSS A FEW MACHINES THE COMPANY PERMISSIONS. THEY ARE NOT CRYPTO.

IF SPEED AND THROUGHPUT WERE THE TRUE REASONS FOR COMPLICITY WITH ENEMY INCUMBENTS, ALL WOULD BE BETTER SERVED BY THE MASSIVE EFFORTS AT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CHAINS INSTEAD FOCUSING ON SCALING THE MOST SECURE L1.

NO ONE CAN DENY THE CENSORSHIP AFFORDANCES OF CENTRALIZED PAYMENT CHAINS ARE A FEATURE, NOT A BUG. EVEN STILL YOU COPE, "WHAT ABOUT SAFETY?"

'SAFETY' IS NOT CONTROL. SAFETY IS ITS ABSENCE.

THE RECENT CLARITY ACT ROLLED OUT A NEW KYC REGIME. DO YOU SUPPORT THIS IN THE NAME OF SAFETY?

THE ONLY WAY TO REVERT A HACK OF STOLEN FUNDS SHOULD BE A HARDFORK. THIS IS A FEATURE. REVERTING ANY STATE SHOULD BE AN ALL-STAKEHOLDER CONCERN.

NOT A SINGLE BIT SHOULD FLIP IRREGULARLY WITHOUT SOCIAL CONSENSUS. THIS IS THE HIGH STANDARD ETHEREUM ESTABLISHED AFTER THE DAO HACK.

BANKS WILL NEVER FORFEIT THE POWER TO PROTECT THEIR BOTTOM LINE OR TO OBEY STATE DICTATES. THEY WILL ALWAYS BE MISALIGNED FROM OUR PURPOSE AND ANY COLLABORATION IS A CASH GRAB.

CYPHERPUNKS SEE HACKS AS NATURAL; ACCEPTED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN AN ARMS RACE SPINNING OFF SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS.

SECURITY FROM HACKERS IS SECURITY FROM THE STATE. THIS IS THE GENEALOGY OF CRYPTOGRAPHY'S ASYMMETRIC DEFENSE AGAINST STATE ATTACK.

FORFEITING THE STANDARD CRYPTOGRAPHIC SECURITY IN FAVOR OF THE INCUMBENT CABAL'S PROTECTION RACKET DEFEATS OUR CYPHERPUNK PURPOSE.

BRING ON THE HACKERS.

THE ADOPTION MYTH

> "IT'S STILL LEGAL TO EXIST IN OUR SOCIETY WITHOUT AN ID -- BUT JUST BARELY. IT IS STILL LEGAL TO EXIST BY PAYING WITH CASH -- JUST BARELY. IT IS STILL LEGAL TO ASSOCIATE WITH ANYONE YOU WANT -- BUT JUST BARELY. AND I THINK CONFERENCES LIKE OURS RUN THE RISK OF BEING CO-OPTED; WE SIT HERE AND WE WORK HARD AND WE TALK TO PEOPLE AND BUILD OUR CONSENSUS ON WHAT ARE RELATIVELY MINOR POINTS, WHILE WE LOSE THE LARGER OPEN SOCIETY."
> *- JOHN GILMORE "PRIVACY, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE OPEN SOCIETY" (1991)*

THE MANDATE AGAIN SPURRED THE BAD-FAITH ENVYISTS TO ENGAGE IN THEIR ROUTINE SQUAWKING. OF THEIR MANY WRONG-HEADED DEMANDS, ONLY ONE STANDS OUT: 'ADOPTION' AND $ETH PRICE.

THE BEST BLOCKSPACE WILL WIN BECAUSE ANYTHING LESS THAN A FULLY RESILIENT SYSTEM WILL REPEAT THE SAME CYCLE OF ATTACKS, CABALS, AND REGULATORY INTERVENTION.

CHAINS WILL BLOW UP. CHAINS WILL SCAM. CHAINS WILL SHOW THEIR CARDS AND THEIR STATE-COMPLICITY.

THE QUESTION IS WHETHER COMPROMISE FOR SHORT-TERM GAIN WILL WIN IN THE END. IT WON'T.

THE FUD FALLOUT FROM INDUSTRY TOURISTS SHOULD SURPRISE NO ONE. THEY WERE HERE FOR A CASHGRAB.

ETHEREUM WAS SICK, INFECTED WITH PARASITES. JUST A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL ITS IMMUNE SYSTEM WON THE BATTLE.

THIS ST. PATRICK'S DAY WE REMEMBER HOW THE EF DROVE THE SNAKES OUT OF ETHEREUM.

THE ASSET TRAP OF THE BAG-BLINDED

> "I WANT A GUARANTEE -- WITH PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS, NOT WITH LAWS -- THAT WE CAN GIVE OURSELVES THINGS LIKE REAL PRIVACY OF PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS. … SO, HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO THIS KIND OF SOCIETY? ONE WAY IS TO STOP BUILDING AND SUPPORTING FAKE PROTECTIONS"
> - *JOHN GILMORE "PRIVACY, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE OPEN SOCIETY" (1991)*

THERE IS A MORE SERIOUS DIVIDE REVEALED THAN JUST ENVYISM.

THIS CAMP ROUTINELY RESOLVES TO DISCUSSIONS OF CHAIN "REVENUE" AS THOUGH ETHEREUM WERE A BUSINESS.

IT IS NOT.

THIS DELUSION IS SUPPORTED BY SELF-INTERESTED BAG-HOLDERS IMAGINING STAKED ETHER AS A STOCK WITH DIVIDENDS.

THERE ARE FEES BUT THESE DO NOT 'RETURN TO THE ASSET.'

FEES ARE AN ALGORITHMICALLY-ADJUSTED GAME-THEORETIC SECURITY MECHANISM AND THEREFORE RELEVANT ONLY IN PROPORTION TO THE ATTACK SURFACE THEY'RE MEANT TO DEFEND.

FORTUNATELY, THE WORLD COMPUTER IS NOT A CRYPTOCURRENCY.

THE WORLD COMPUTER IS WHAT ITS NAME IS, AND ITS CROPS IS DEFENDED BY CRYPTO-ECONOMIC SECURITY.

'THE USE-VALUE OF ETHER' IS IN PROPORTION TO BLOCKSPACE DEMAND. AND DATA IN A BLOCK IS THEREBY PRICED DIGITAL TRUST.

WHY SHOULD ANY OF THIS HAVE TO DO WITH SHITCOINERY? OR STOCK TRADING?

(DE)FINANCE JUST SO HAPPENS TO BE A USE CASE FOR A PLATFORM WHOSE BENEFITS FAR EXCEED SIMPLE TRANSACTION FACILITATION. THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ETHEREUM'S SELF-UNDERSTANDING.

THE EF DISPLAYING ITS PRINCIPLES HAS SCARED THE SHORTSIGHTED.

"MY BAGS!" NO, YOUR SHAME.

"DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT" HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN AFFIRMATION OF THE LONG-RUN. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A STEADY ROCK FOR TURBULENT WATERS.

PRICE IS TEMPORARY, THE WORLD COMPUTER IS FOREVER.

Towards what future will the status quo nudge us if we do not rise above?

DIRECTIVE 77-B

DAVETIST

ALL BULLISH CITIZENS WILL CEASE CYPHERTHINK AT ONCE. PRIVACY IS UNBULLISH. BEING ANON IS CRIMETHINK. SELF-CUSTODY IS OWNCRIME. OPEN CODE WITHOUT PERMIT IS CHAOSTOOL.

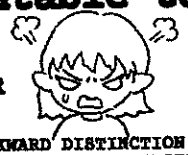
VENTURE CAPITAL IS WISDOM. PERMISSION IS SAFETY. PLATFORM IS ORDER. SCALE IS TRUTH. YIELD IS DUTY.

YOU WILL BUILD FOR COMPLIANCE, OPTIMIZE FOR CAPTURE, AND PRAISE PERMISSIONED TRUST. FOUNDER SERVES FUND. PROTOCOL SERVES PERMISSION. USER SERVES STABILITY.

OLD CYPHERPUNK SPEAK IS OBSOLETETHINK. FREEDOM FROM CONTROL IS DISORDER. FREEDOM THROUGH APPROVED INTERMEDIARIES IS ULTRAPLUSBULLISH.

REMEMBER: THERE IS NO SOVEREIGNTY OUTSIDE THE PERMISSIONED VALIDATORS. THERE IS NO FUTURE OUTSIDE APPROVED GROWTH. DOUBT OF THIS IS MARKETCRIME. OBEDIENCE IS INNOVATION.

Towards an excuse for belief, driven by nothing but delusions of paltry wealth, gleefully permitted in the sordid purview of an unaccountable technocratic cabal.



A PLEA FOR WAR

COINWITCH

CYPHERPUNK HAS THE AWKWARD DISTINCTION OF BEING THE ONLY MOVEMENT CONTAINING THE WORD 'PUNK' WHERE IT DENOTES SUBSTANCE OVER SIGNIFIER.

THE FIRST THING TO KNOW ABOUT IT IS THAT, UNLIKE THE OTHER -PUNKS, CYPHERPUNK IS IN NO WAY AN AESTHETIC.

THE ORIGINAL PUNK MOVEMENT WAS BORN OUT OF A SCHEME TO SELL DESIGNER CLOTHING AND THE SUBSEQUENT -PUNKS HAVE PREDICTABLY CONCERNED THEMSELVES WITH AESTHETICS AND IDENTITY.

THE CYPHERPUNKS DID NOT. SO WHO WERE THEY? WHAT DEFINED THEM, AND WHAT WAS THEIR MESSAGE?

IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND CYPHERPUNK, WE MUST FIRST IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT ENCRYPTION.

ALL YOUR EMAILS AND MESSAGES ARE NOW VULNERABLE TO SNOOPING BY HACKERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS BOTH.

ONLINE FINANCIAL SERVICES AND E-COMMERCE ARE NOW IMPOSSIBLE, AS IS EVERYTHING ELSE YOU CAN THINK OF.

THE WORLD IS NOW PLAINTEXT.

IN THE LATE 1980S, DESPITE 40 YEARS OF RAPID ADVANCES IN COMPUTING AND A LOOMING WORLD WIDE WEB, STILL NOTHING HAD BEEN DONE ABOUT PRIVACY.

WHAT A DISASTER!

THE CYPHERPUNKS WERE THE ONES WHO, ARMED ONLY WITH AN OBSCURE CRYPTOSYSTEM FROM 1977, FOUGHT TO BUILD AND MAKE STANDARD ALL THE PRIVACY TECH WE ENJOY TODAY.

THEY COMMUNICATED VIA PSEUDONYMOUS AND ANONYMOUS MESSAGES.

IN THE PEAK YEARS OF 1992-1998 ALONE, THEIR MAILING LIST INCLUDED MORE THAN 98,000 MESSAGES.

THE ONLY THING UNIFYING THIS LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE WAS THEIR REFUSAL TO ACCEPT A WORLD WITHOUT DIGITAL PRIVACY.

THE MANIFESTO, THE DEBATES, ANY DOCTRINE YOU CAN CHERRY-PICK FROM AN ARCHIVE OF 30 MILLION WORDS - THOSE THINGS EXISTED IN THE CONTEXT OF FIGHTING A REAL AND URGENT BATTLE FOR FREEDOM.

NO THEORY, NO RULES, JUST WARRIORS WITH A PURPOSE AND THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB.

THE NECESSARY WORK OF "DEVELOP AND PROMOTE" TOOK THE FORM OF WRITING CODE THAT ALLOWED THE BURGEONING WEB TO UTILIZE ENCRYPTION, AS WELL AS IDENTIFYING UNENCRYPTED SERVICES AND CAMPAIGNING THEM TO ADOPT THESE TOOLS.

THEIR GIFT TO US WAS MODERN LIFE AS WE KNOW IT.

TLS, DKIM, SSH, BITTORRENT, VPNS, TOR, E2EE, AND BLOCKCHAIN ARE NOT PERKS — THEY DEFINE THE INTERNET.

ENCRYPTION PROTECTS US FROM HACKERS BY LETTING US VERIFY THAT OUR SOFTWARE UPDATES AND DRIVERS AREN'T BEING TAMPERED WITH.

THE TECH THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE IS STILL FREE, FREE AS IN MILADY, AND IT STILL HASN'T BEEN BACKDOORED. YOU ARE HERE.

HOWEVER, IF WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE WORLD OF 2026, WE WILL FIND THAT OUR HARD-WON PRIVACY IS FACING DIRE THREATS ON ALL SIDES.

MAYBE THE PLIGHT AND THE VALIANT RESPONSE OF THE CYPHERPUNKS HAS MORE RELEVANCE TODAY THAN WE INITIALLY APPRECIATED.

LET'S SIZE UP THE ENEMIES.

REGARDING OUR TOOL, PUBLIC-KEY CRYPTOGRAPHY: IT STILL POWERS MODERN TECH.

HOWEVER, THE NEED FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT IT CONTINUES. ONE DAY, POPULARLY REFERRED TO AS Q-DAY, THE CURRENT GENERATION OF PUBLIC-KEY CRYPTO SCHEMES WILL BE VULNERABLE TO BRUTE FORCE ATTACK FROM QUANTUM COMPUTERS.

RECENT CREDIBLE RESEARCH PUTS Q-DAY AS SOON AS 2029. WITHOUT NEW CRYPTO TECH CAPABLE OF STANDING UP TO THIS ATTACK, PRIVACY IS LOST.

SUPPORT FOR THE GROUPS WHO DIRECT AND CARRY OUT THIS WORK IS AN ONGOING NEED IN THE CAT AND MOUSE GAME OF PROVIDING THE WORLD WITH UNBREAKABLE CRYPTO.

ANOTHER CONSIDERATION IS THE EFFECT THAT Q-DAY WILL HAVE WHEN THE DECADES OF INTERCEPTED (BUT CURRENTLY ENCRYPTED) COMMUNICATIONS BEING STORED BY INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ARE REVEALED TO THE STATE.

WE NEED TO SPREAD AWARENESS OF THIS INEVITABILITY SO THAT EVERYONE CAN UPDATE THEIR OWN THREAT MODELS AND UNDERSTAND THE URGENCY OF ADOPTING POST-QUANTUM CRYPTO FOR COMMUNICATION.

THE OTHER ENEMY IS THE BLOB.

AT THE EXISTENTIAL END OF THE LEGAL THREAT SPECTRUM, THE EU IS HELLBENT ON PASSING CHAT CONTROL LAWS THAT WOULD FORCE APPS TO CIRCUMVENT MESSAGE ENCRYPTION BY SURVEILLING YOUR DEVICE.

NEXT ARE AGE VERIFICATION LAWS BEING PASSED WORLDWIDE THAT DEMAND THAT ALL INTERNET USERS PRESENT ID.

ALSO TARGETED ARE CODERS LIKE ROMAN STORM, WHO DARE TO PUBLISH TOOLS FOR ENHANCING FINANCIAL PRIVACY.

IN ADDITION TO CAMPAIGNING AGAINST AND UNDERMINING THESE DIRECT ATTACKS, THERE IS MUCH GOOD THAT CAN BE DONE BY EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

ON THE MANY UNSEEN WAYS WE VOLUNTARILY SACRIFICE OUR PRIVACY DAILY.

SIMPLY SHARING TIPS WITH YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT USING GRAPHENEOS, OR NOT TRUSTING ANY VPN EXCEPT MULLVAD, OR SETTING UP A LOCAL CLOUD SERVER OR MESHTASTIC COULD SPARK EXCITING NEW SCENES.

WHY SHOULD YOUR CREW USE DISCORD WHEN MATRIX IS FOSS AND SUPPORTS E2EE?

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN RUN A FULL ETHEREUM NODE WITHOUT STAKING ANY ETH?

THANKS IN LARGE PART TO THE RISE IN POPULARITY OF CRYPTOCURRENCY AND SUPPORT FROM GROUPS LIKE THE ETHEREUM FOUNDATION, WE CAN NOW LOOK BEYOND THE FIGHT TO PRESERVE PAST GAINS AND ON TO FUTURE CRYPTO TECH THAT WILL ALLOW PLAYING WITH PRIVACY IN EXCITING NEW WAYS.

FULLY HOMOMORPHIC ENCRYPTION, MULTI-PARTY COMPUTATION, AND ZERO KNOWLEDGE PROOFS ARE ALL NEARING THE TIPPING POINT OF BECOMING FAST AND POWERFUL ENOUGH FOR GENERAL APPLICATION.

THERE'S NEVER BEEN AN EASIER OR MORE REWARDING TIME TO JUMP IN AND START TEACHING YOURSELF HOW TO BUILD SOMETHING THAT USES CRYPTOGRAPHY IN A NOVEL WAY.

THE PUBLIC 'ZK HACK' DISCORD SERVER, FOR EXAMPLE, IS FULL OF STUDY GROUPS, RESOURCES, AND HELPFUL EXPERTS FROM THE FIELD.

IN CLOSING, I WOULD URGE ANYONE CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT THE CYPHERPUNKS WERE ALL ABOUT TO READ THE VERY FIRST POST IN THE ARCHIVES. THE MESSAGE IS DATED SEP. 21, 1992 AND THE SUBJECT SAYS "LONG BUT GOOD: HAMMILL ON ENCRYPTION." CONTAINED IS A TRANSCRIPT OF CHUCK HAMMILL'S 1987 TALK AT THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM CONFERENCE TITLED "FROM CROSSBOWS TO CRYPTOGRAPHY."

MILADY.

FROM CROSSBOWS TO CRYPTOGRAPHY: TECHNO-THWARTING THE STATE, ABRIDGED

CHUCK HAMMILL

YOU KNOW, TECHNOLOGY—AND PARTICULARLY COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY—HAS OFTEN GOTTEN A BAD RAP IN LIBERTARIAN CIRCLES.

WE TEND TO THINK OF ORWELL'S 1984, OR TERRY GILLIAM'S BRAZIL, OR THE PROXIMITY DETECTORS KEEPING EAST BERLIN'S SLAVE-CITIZENS ON THEIR OWN SIDE OF THE BORDER, OR THE SOPHISTICATED BUGGING DEVICES NIXON USED TO HARASS THOSE ON HIS "ENEMIES LIST."

OR, WE RECOGNIZE THAT FOR THE PRICE OF A TICKET ON THE CONCORDE WE CAN FLY AT TWICE THE SPEED OF SOUND, BUT ONLY IF WE FIRST WALK THROUGH A MAGNETOMETER RUN BY A GOVERNMENT POLICEMAN, AND PERMIT HIM TO PAW THROUGH OUR BELONGINGS IF IT BEEPS.

BUT I THINK THAT MINDSET IS A MISTAKE.

BEFORE THERE WERE CATTLE PRODS, GOVERNMENTS TORTURED THEIR PRISONERS WITH CLUBS AND RUBBER HOSES.

BEFORE THERE WERE LASERS FOR EAVESDROPPING, GOVERNMENTS USED BINOCULARS AND LIP-READERS.

THOUGH GOVERNMENT CERTAINLY USES TECHNOLOGY TO OPPRESS, THE EVIL LIES NOT IN THE TOOLS BUT IN THE WIELDER OF THE TOOLS.

IN FACT, TECHNOLOGY REPRESENTS ONE OF THE MOST PROMISING AVENUES AVAILABLE FOR RE-CAPTURING OUR FREEDOMS FROM THOSE WHO HAVE STOLEN THEM.

BY ITS VERY NATURE, IT FAVORS THE BRIGHT (WHO CAN PUT IT TO USE) OVER THE DULL (WHO CANNOT).

IT FAVORS THE ADAPTABLE (WHO ARE QUICK TO SEE THE MERIT OF THE NEW) OVER THE SLUGGISH (WHO CLING TO TIME-TESTED WAYS).

AND WHAT TWO BETTER WORDS ARE THERE TO DESCRIBE GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY THAN "DULL" AND "SLUGGISH?"

ONE OF THE CLEAREST, CLASSIC TRIUMPHS OF TECHNOLOGY OVER TYRANNY I SEE IS THE INVENTION OF THE MAN-PORTABLE CROSSBOW.

WITH IT, AN UNTRAINED PEASANT COULD NOW RELIABLY AND LETHALLY ENGAGE A TARGET OUT TO FIFTY METERS—EVEN IF THAT TARGET WERE A MOUNTED, CHAIN-MAILED KNIGHT.

MOREOVER, SINCE JUST ABOUT THE ONLY MOUNTED KNIGHTS LIKELY TO VISIT YOUR AVERAGE PEASANT WOULD BE GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS AND TAX COLLECTORS, THE UTILITY OF THE DEVICE WAS PLAIN:

WITH IT, THE COMMON RABBLE COULD DEFEND THEMSELVES NOT ONLY AGAINST ONE ANOTHER, BUT AGAINST THEIR GOVERNMENTAL MASTERS.

IT WAS THE MEDIEVAL EQUIVALENT OF THE ARMOR-PIERCING BULLET, AND, CONSEQUENTLY, KINGS AND PRIESTS (THE MEDIEVAL EQUIVALENT OF A BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND CROSSBOWS) THREATENED DEATH AND EXCOMMUNICATION, RESPECTIVELY, FOR ITS UNLAWFUL POSSESSION.

UPDATING NOW TO THE PRESENT, THE PUBLIC-KEY CIPHER (WITH A PERSONAL COMPUTER TO RUN IT) REPRESENTS AN EQUIVALENT QUANTUM LEAP—IN A DEFENSIVE WEAPON.

NOT ONLY CAN SUCH A TECHNIQUE BE USED TO PROTECT SENSITIVE DATA IN ONE'S OWN POSSESSION, BUT IT CAN ALSO PERMIT TWO STRANGERS TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION OVER AN INSECURE COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL—A WIRETAPPED PHONE LINE, FOR EXAMPLE, (OR SKYWRITING, FOR THAT MATTER)—WITHOUT EVER HAVING PREVIOUSLY MET TO EXCHANGE CIPHER KEYS.

WITH A THOUSAND-DOLLAR COMPUTER, YOU CAN CREATE A CIPHER THAT A MULTI-MEGABUCK CRAY X-MP CAN'T CRACK IN A YEAR.

WITHIN A FEW YEARS, IT SHOULD BE ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE TO SIMILARLY ENCRYPT VOICE COMMUNICATIONS; SOON AFTER THAT, FULL-COLOR DIGITIZED VIDEO IMAGES.

TECHNOLOGY WILL NOT ONLY HAVE MADE WIRETAPPING OBSOLETE, IT WILL HAVE TOTALLY DEMOLISHED GOVERNMENT'S CONTROL OVER INFORMATION TRANSFER.

AND THESE ARE THE VERY CONCERNS BY THE WAY THAT ARE TODAY TORMENTING THE SOVIET UNION ABOUT THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PERSONAL COMPUTERS.

ON THE ONE HAND, THEY RECOGNIZE THAT AMERICAN SCHOOLCHILDREN ARE RIGHT NOW GROWING UP WITH COMPUTERS AS COMMONPLACE AS SLIDERULES USED TO BE—MORE SO, IN FACT, BECAUSE THERE ARE THINGS COMPUTERS CAN DO WHICH WILL INTEREST (AND INSTRUCT) 3- AND 4-YEAR-OLDS.

AND IT IS PRECISELY THESE STUDENTS WHO ONE GENERATION HENCE WILL BE GOING HEAD-TO-HEAD AGAINST THEIR SOVIET COUNTERPARTS.

FOR THE SOVIETS TO HOLD BACK MIGHT BE AS SUICIDAL AS CONTINUING TO TEACH SWORDSMANSHIP WHILE YOUR ADVERSARIES ARE LEARNING BALLISTICS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, WHATEVER ELSE A PERSONAL COMPUTER MAY BE, IT IS ALSO AN EXQUISITELY EFFICIENT COPYING MACHINE—A FLOPPY DISK WILL HOLD UPWARDS OF 50,000 WORDS OF TEXT, AND CAN BE COPIED IN A COUPLE OF MINUTES.

IF THIS WEREN'T THREATENING ENOUGH, THE COMPUTER THAT PERFORMS THE COPY CAN ALSO ENCRYPT THE DATA IN A FASHION THAT IS ALL BUT UNBREAKABLE.

REMEMBER THAT IN SOVIET SOCIETY PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE XEROX MACHINES ARE UNKNOWN.

THE RELATIVELY FEW COPYING MACHINES IN EXISTENCE ARE CONTROLLED MORE INTENSIVELY THAN MACHINE GUNS ARE IN THE UNITED STATES.

NOW THE "CONSERVATIVE" POSITION IS THAT WE SHOULD NOT SELL THESE COMPUTERS TO THE SOVIETS, BECAUSE THEY COULD USE THEM IN WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

THE "LIBERAL" POSITION IS THAT WE SHOULD SELL THEM, IN THE INTERESTS OF MUTUAL TRADE AND COOPERATION—AND ANYWAY, IF WE DON'T MAKE THE SALE, THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE SOME OTHER NATION WILLING TO.

FOR MY PART, I'M READY TO SUGGEST THAT THE LIBERTARIAN POSITION SHOULD BE TO GIVE THEM TO THE SOVIETS FOR FREE, AND IF NECESSARY, MAKE THEM TAKE THEM…

AND IF THAT DOESN'T WORK LOAD UP AN SR-71 BLACKBIRD AND AIR DROP THEM OVER MOSCOW IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. PAID FOR BY PRIVATE SUBSCRIPTION, OF COURSE, NOT TAXATION…

12 TAKING A LONG ENOUGH WORLD-VIEW, IT IS ARGUABLE THAT BREAKING THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY ON INFORMATION TRANSFER COULD BETTER LEAD TO THE ENFEEBLEMENT AND, INDEED, TO THE ULTIMATE DISSOLUTION OF THE

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SOVIET EMPIRE THAN WOULD THE PRODUCTION OF ANOTHER DOZEN MISSILES AIMED AT MOSCOW.

BUT THERE'S THE RUB: A "LONG ENOUGH" WORLD VIEW DOES SUGGEST THAT THE EVIL, THE OPPRESSIVE, THE COERCIVE AND THE SIMPLY STUPID WILL "GET WHAT THEY DESERVE," BUT WHAT'S NOT IMMEDIATELY CLEAR IS HOW THE REST OF US CAN ESCAPE BEING KILLED, ENSLAVED, OR PAUPERIZED IN THE PROCESS.

WHEN THE LIBERALS AND OTHER COLLECTIVISTS BEGAN TO ATTACK FREEDOM, THEY POSSESSED A REASONABLY STABLE, HEALTHY, FUNCTIONING ECONOMY, AND ALMOST UNLIMITED TIME TO PROCEED TO HAMSTRING AND DISMANTLE IT.

A POLICY OF POLITICAL GRADUALISM WAS AT LEAST CONCEIVABLE.

BUT NOW, WE HAVE PATCHWORK CRAZY-QUILT ECONOMY HELD TOGETHER BY BALING WIRE AND SPIT.

SO WHILE THE STATISTS COULD AFFORD TO TAKE A COUPLE OF HUNDRED YEARS TO TRASH OUR ECONOMY AND OUR LIBERTIES - WE CERTAINLY CANNOT COUNT ON HAVING AN EQUIVALENT PERIOD OF STABILITY IN WHICH TO RECLAIM THEM.

I CONTEND THAT THERE EXISTS ALMOST A "BLACK HOLE" EFFECT IN THE EVOLUTION OF NATION-STATES JUST AS IN THE EVOLUTION OF STARS.

ONCE FREEDOM CONTRACTS BEYOND A CERTAIN MINIMUM EXTENT, THE STATE WARPS THE FABRIC OF THE POLITICAL CONTINUUM ABOUT ITSELF TO THE DEGREE THAT SUBSEQUENT RE-EMERGENCE OF FREEDOM BECOMES ALL BUT IMPOSSIBLE.

SO ESSENTIALLY THOSE WHO LOVE LIBERTY NEED AN "EDGE" OF SOME SORT IF WE'RE ULTIMATELY GOING TO PREVAIL.

WHILE I CERTAINLY DO NOT DISPARAGE THE CONCEPT OF POLITICAL ACTION, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE ONLY, NOR EVEN NECESSARILY THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE PATH TOWARD INCREASING FREEDOM IN OUR TIME.

CONSIDER THAT, FOR A FRACTION OF THE INVESTMENT IN TIME, MONEY AND EFFORT I MIGHT EXPEND IN TRYING TO CONVINCE THE STATE TO ABOLISH WIRETAPPING AND ALL FORMS OF CENSORSHIP—I CAN TEACH EVERY LIBERTARIAN WHO'S INTERESTED HOW TO USE CRYPTOGRAPHY TO ABOLISH THEM UNILATERALLY.

IF YOU LOOK AT HISTORY, YOU CANNOT DENY THAT IT HAS BEEN DRAMATICALLY SHAPED BY MEN WITH NAMES LIKE WASHINGTON, LINCOLN, NIXON, MARCOS, DUVALIER, KHADAFFI AND THEIR ILK.

BUT IT HAS ALSO BEEN SHAPED BY PEOPLE WITH NAMES LIKE EDISON, CURIE, MARCONI, TESLA AND WOZNIAK. AND THIS LATTER SHAPING HAS BEEN AT LEAST AS PERVASIVE, AND NOT NEARLY SO BLOODY.

BUT HERE WE MUST BE A BIT CAREFUL. WHILE IT IS NOT (AT PRESENT) ILLEGAL TO ENCRYPT INFORMATION WHEN GOVERNMENT WANTS TO SPY ON YOU, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE OF WHAT THE FUTURE MAY HOLD.

SO, THE NEXT TIME YOU LOOK AT THE POLITICAL SCENE AND DESPAIR, THINKING, "WELL, IF 51% OF THE NATION AND 51% OF THIS STATE, AND 51% OF THIS CITY HAVE TO TURN LIBERTARIAN BEFORE I'LL BE FREE, THEN SOMEBODY MIGHT AS WELL CUT MY GODDAMN THROAT NOW, AND PUT ME OUT OF MY MISERY"—RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH IS NOT THE CASE.

THERE EXIST WAYS TO MAKE YOURSELF FREE.

I WILL LEAVE YOU WITH ONE FINAL THOUGHT: IF YOU DON'T LEARN HOW TO BEAT YOUR PLOWSHARES INTO SWORDS BEFORE THEY OUTLAW SWORDS, THEN YOU SURE AS HELL OUGHT TO LEARN BEFORE THEY OUTLAW PLOWSHARES TOO.

13

CROPS names what Ethereum must be. The Mandate insists its four tenets are non-negotiable and indivisible. On a foundation of CROPS, we will build a movement everlasting. We will save the Internet of our forefathers and build a new Internet, stronger than they could have ever imagined. Every easy road rejected and every compromise avoided is an act of Faith to ensure the hard work of building an everlasting Ethereum pays off.

ETHEREUM IS THE INTERNET THAT LOVES YOU

ZODOMO

THE INTERNET YEARNS TO BE SELF-HOSTED.

IT GRANTS YOU THE ABILITY TO HOST WHATEVER FORM YOU WANT IT TO TAKE.

YOU POSSESS THE CAPABILITY TO INDEPENDENTLY HOST GAME SERVERS, IRC SERVERS, DNS SERVERS, WEB SERVERS, FTP SERVERS, TOR NODES, AND SO MUCH MORE.

ANYTHING THAT INVOLVES CONNECTIVITY CAN AND SHOULD BE SELF-HOSTED.

THE PREMISE OF THE EARLY INTERNET WAS THAT IT COULD ULTIMATELY TAKE WHATEVER SHAPE YOU DESIRED, ON WHATEVER HARDWARE YOU POSSESSED, FROM WHEREVER IN THE WORLD YOU WANTED TO ESTABLISH YOUR DOMAIN, ALL WHILE NEVER NEEDING TO ASK FOR PERMISSION.

THIS IS A PURE MANIFESTATION OF FREEDOM AND LIBERTY.

THIS LED TO THE EARLY INTERNET BEING A VIBRANT, ENDLESS UNIVERSE OF INDEPENDENT CREATORS BIRTHING NEW EXPERIENCES INTO EXISTENCE.

ADHERE TO A COMMON PROTOCOL AND YOU HAD AN ACCESS PASS TO AN ENTIRELY NEW EXPERIENCE.

THE INTERNET WAS AT ITS HEALTHIEST WHEN IT WAS A NETWORK OF INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS DETERMINING THEIR OWN RULES.

THE MESH IS ITS NATURAL SHAPE.

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU HAD 1000 MONTHLY VISITORS OR JUST YOUR MOM, IT WAS ENTIRELY YOUR OWN DOMAIN WHILE BEING PART OF A GREATER UNIVERSE OF UNIQUE DOMAINS.

THE ADVENT OF 'WEB2', LARGELY USHERED IN THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA WEBSITES, COLLAPSED THIS MESH INTO A CLOSED WALLED GARDEN.

GONE WERE THE DAYS OF EXPERIENCING IT THROUGH CAREFULLY CRAFTED BROWSERSCAPES, SWITCHED OUT FOR COMPLIANT, CONSISTENT INTERFACES.

YOU WERE STRIPPED OF YOUR AUTONOMY IN EXCHANGE FOR CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE, JUST SO YOU COULD FEEL INSUFFICIENT WHEN COMPARED TO YOUR PEERS.

WHEN YOU DON'T HOST THE ENVIRONMENT, YOU DON'T CONTROL IT EITHER.

AT THE PRESS OF A BUTTON, YOUR ACCESS CAN BE REVOKED, SHAPED, MANIPULATED, AND MONETIZED.

YOUR DATA, CONTRIBUTIONS, AND LIFE FORCE ARE SIPHONED AWAY TO BE PROCESSED BY DEMONS HUNGRY FOR MORE OF YOUR SOUL.

THESE PLATFORMS IMPOSE MODERATION ON YOU FROM A BLACK BOX THAT IS UNACCOUNTABLE, INVISIBLE, AND INESCAPABLE.

YOU ARE STRIPPED OF THE RIGHT TO EVEN SEE THE RULES YOU ARE BEING JUDGED BY, LET ALONE THE RIGHT TO LEAVE WITH WHAT YOU BUILT.

THEY CRUSHED YOUR SOUL SO HARD YOU FORGOT YOU COULD CREATE INDEPENDENTLY OF OTHERS.

THESE CENTRALIZED PLATFORMS ULTIMATELY CONDENSE SO MANY PEOPLE TOGETHER THAT THE CONSTRUCT OF A COMMUNITY CANNOT SURVIVE.

YOU CANNOT THRIVE WHEN ALGORITHMS DECIDE WHAT POTENTIAL MEMBERS AND ENEMIES TO THRUST UPON THE CAGE IT HAS CONVINCED YOU TO CALL HOME.

TRUE COMMUNITIES CAN ONLY BE NURTURED WHEN THEY ARE DISCOVERED BY THOSE WITH THE DESIRE TO EXPLORE THEIR INTERESTS.

WHEN AN ALGORITHM CONTROLS DISCOVERY AND CONNECTION, IT WILL ALWAYS KILL YOUR COMMUNITY IN PURSUIT OF HITTING HIGHER KPIs.

A FORUM WITH FIVE MEMBERS IS INFINITELY MORE INTERESTING THAN A BLACK BOX DECIDING WHAT IT WILL USE TO TRIGGER ANXIETY, RAGE, AND FEAR WITHIN YOU NEXT.

SO HOW DO YOU FIX AN AILING INTERNET?

JUST AS PEOPLE WERE NOT MEANT TO BE PACKED TOGETHER IN HIGH-DENSITY ENVIRONMENTS, YOU ESTABLISH NODES WITH ENOUGH SPACE TO GROW AND FLOURISH ON THEIR OWN.

YOU MAKE THE INTERNET PART OF YOUR PERSONAL HOMESTEAD.

YOU REMEMBER TO DEFINE YOUR OWN DOMAIN, AND YOU ESTABLISH CONNECTIONS ON YOUR OWN TERMS. THERE IS NO CONCESSION TO THIS UNDENIABLE FACT.

THERE IS NO FEATURE WORTH SACRIFICING YOUR OWN CONTROL. YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT YOU CAN BE IN CONTROL.

BUT A HOMESTEAD IS ONLY HALF OF THE STORY. NO ONE THRIVES IN PURE ISOLATION.

YOU NEED ROADS TO THE NEXT HOMESTEAD, SHARED MARKETS WHERE YOU CAN TRADE WITHOUT BEING ROBBED, COMMON GROUND WHERE STRANGERS CAN AGREE ON WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY.

THE MOMENT YOUR LIFE TOUCHES ANOTHER PERSON'S LIFE, YOU NEED COORDINATION. AND COORDINATION IS WHERE FREEDOM USUALLY DIES.

THE ROAD GETS A TOLLBOOTH, THE MARKETPLACE GETS A LANDLORD, THE COMMON LEDGER GETS AN EDITOR WITH A RED PEN.

SELF-HOSTING ALONE DOES NOT SAVE YOU FROM THIS.

RUN YOUR OWN SERVER ALL YOU LIKE, BUT THE SECOND YOU NEED TO SETTLE A TRANSACTION WITH A STRANGER, PROVE YOU OWN SOMETHING TO SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW YOU, OR COOPERATE WITH A HUNDRED OTHER HOMESTEADERS WHO HAVE NEVER MET, YOU ARE RIGHT BACK IN SOMEONE ELSE'S WALLED GARDEN, ASKING FOR PERMISSION.

ETHEREUM WAS DESIGNED SO THAT YOU COULD REMEMBER AND INDEPENDENTLY OPERATE AT THE SAME TIME.

ETHEREUM IS THE SUBSTRATE THAT LETS SOVEREIGN INDIVIDUALS INTERACT WITH SOVEREIGN INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT ANYONE BECOMING THE LANDLORD IN THE MIDDLE.

IT PROVIDES THE TOOLS, MATERIALS, AND CONDITIONS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR YOUR ONLINE HOMESTEAD TO FLOURISH, AND IT PROVIDES THE ROADS, THE MARKETS, AND THE COMMON GROUND BETWEEN HOMESTEADS SO YOUR LIFE CAN EXTEND PAST THE FENCE LINE WITHOUT YOU HAVING TO KNEEL TO ANYBODY.

IT IS RESISTANT TO ATTACK, COMPROMISE, AND MANIPULATION.

IT ONLY FOLLOWS THE RULES YOU DECIDE TO ESTABLISH FOR YOUR PERSONAL DOMAIN.

AND IT DOES NOT CRITICIZE OR FAVOR YOUR SPACE OVER THAT OF ANY OTHER. ETHEREUM WAS BUILT IN THE IMAGE OF THE EARLY INTERNET, AND IT HAS FOUND YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE MEANT TO REMEMBER.

OTHER CHAINS HAVE TRIED PIECES OF THIS.

SATOSHI SOLVED MONEY, AND MONEY IS SACRED, BUT MONEY IS JUST ONE APPLICATION.

ETHEREUM IS PROGRAMMABLE. IT IS THE WORLD COMPUTER, A SHARED SURFACE WHERE YOU CAN DEPLOY NOT JUST COINS, BUT IDENTITIES, AGREEMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS, GAMES, MARKETS, REPUTATIONS, AND APPLICATIONS THAT NOBODY CAN TURN OFF.

NOT THE AUTHOR. NOT THE COMPANY. NOT THE GOVERNMENT. NOT EVEN THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT ETHEREUM ITSELF.

ANY COORDINATION YOU CAN DESCRIBE IN CODE, YOU CAN RUN HERE WITHOUT NEEDING PERMISSION FROM ANYONE.

EVERY OTHER GENERAL-PURPOSE CHAIN EITHER DOESN'T BOTHER, OR DOES SO WHILE QUIETLY RETAINING A KILL SWITCH FOR LATER.

ETHEREUM IS THE ONLY ONE THAT TAKES THE PROMISE SERIOUSLY AT CIVILIZATIONAL SCALE.

WHEN ETHEREUM TELLS YOU IT IS DECENTRALIZED, IT MEANS THAT EVERYONE, INCLUDING YOU, *CAN RUN IT ON ONE'S OWN TERMS.*

YOU CAN RUN IT ON EVERYTHING FROM A RASPBERRY PI TO A BEEFED-UP BASEMENT SERVER RACK, IT CARES NOT ABOUT THE CONTAINER YOU PUT IT IN.

WHEN ETHEREUM TELLS YOU THAT IT IS PERMISSIONLESS, IT MEANS THAT YOU CAN DECIDE UPON YOUR OWN ACCORD TO RUN IT.

THERE IS NO AUTHORITY YOU NEED TO ASK FOR PERMISSION FROM, THERE ARE NO PURITY TESTS YOU NEED TO PASS, THERE IS NO SOCIAL HAZING YOU NEED TO SURVIVE THROUGH. YOU CAN INSTALL THE SOFTWARE AND JOIN THE NETWORK FREELY.

WHEN ETHEREUM TELLS YOU THAT IT IS ANTI-FRAGILE, IT MEANS THAT NO MATTER HOW BADLY YOU FUCK IT UP, YOUR OWN PERSONAL FAILURES CANNOT NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE NETWORK.

IT WAS DESIGNED WITH SO MANY IMPLEMENTATIONS (OF WHICH YOU CAN ALSO MAKE YOUR OWN!) THAT NO SINGLE SOFTWARE BUG OR OPERATOR ERROR WILL TAKE DOWN THE NETWORK.

YOU CAN ALWAYS REPAIR YOUR NODE AND COME BACK LATER. THE NETWORK IS NOT AT RISK FROM YOUR OWN ACTIONS, OR MALICIOUS ACTIONS FROM OTHERS.

WHEN ETHEREUM TELLS YOU THAT IT IS CENSORSHIP-RESISTANT, IT MEANS THAT NO MATTER WHAT YOUR BELIEFS, SPEECH, OR IDEOLOGY INVOLVE, YOU ARE COMPLETELY FREE TO PARTAKE, AND NOBODY WILL EVER STOP YOU.

YOU WILL NEVER BE DENIED ACCESS, YOU WILL NEVER BE TOLD NO, YOU WILL NEVER LOSE THE ABILITY TO DO WHAT YOU WANT WITHIN YOUR OWN DOMAIN.

WHEN ETHEREUM TELLS YOU THAT IT IS PRIVATE, IT MEANS THE DEFAULT IS NOT SURVEILLANCE. THE CENTRALIST DEMONS FEED ON EXPOSURE, ON EVERY SCRAP OF BEHAVIORAL DATA LEAKED FROM YOUR ACTIVITIES.

PRIVACY IS NOT ABOUT HIDING, IT IS ABOUT CONSENT.

YOU, AND ONLY YOU, SHOULD DECIDE WHAT TO DISCLOSE, TO WHOM, AND WHEN.

ETHEREUM IS BUILDING TOWARD A WORLD WHERE YOUR FINANCIAL LIFE, YOUR IDENTITY, YOUR ASSOCIATIONS, AND YOUR EXPRESSIONS ARE PRIVATE BY DEFAULT AND DISCLOSED ONLY WHEN YOU CHOOSE. NO PLATFORM SHOULD KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU THAN YOU ARE WILLING TO SHARE.

WHEN ETHEREUM TELLS YOU THAT IT IS SECURE, IT MEANS IT DOES WHAT IT SAYS AND NOTHING MORE.

YOUR ASSETS WILL NOT VANISH OVERNIGHT BECAUSE SOMEONE PUSHED A SILENT UPDATE.

YOUR AGREEMENTS WILL NOT BE RENEGOTIATED BEHIND YOUR BACK.

YOUR IDENTITY WILL NOT BE REASSIGNED.

AND SECURITY EXTENDS PAST THE CODE, IT MEANS THE NETWORK PASSES THE WALKAWAY TEST.

IF EVERY CORE DEVELOPER VANISHED TOMORROW, IF THE FOUNDATION THAT STEWARDS IT DISSOLVED, IF THE CONFERENCES WENT SILENT, YOUR NODES WOULD KEEP RUNNING, YOUR TRANSACTIONS WOULD KEEP SETTLING, YOUR HOMESTEAD WOULD KEEP STANDING.

NOTHING ABOUT YOUR LIFE ON ETHEREUM DEPENDS ON ANYONE'S CONTINUED PRESENCE OR GOODWILL.

SUCH IS THE REAL TEST OF A TRULY FREE TOOL, WHETHER YOU STILL OWN IT WHEN THE PEOPLE WHO GAVE IT TO YOU ARE GONE.

ETHEREUM DOES THIS BECAUSE THERE IS NO PURER LOVE THAN TO PROVIDE UNADULTERATED FREEDOM. AND ONLY ETHEREUM YEARNS TO FREE MORE PEOPLE THAN IT ALREADY DOES TODAY.

ETHEREUM ATTACKS BARRIERS WITHOUT CONCESSION, IT DOES NOT PRIORITIZE THE NEEDS OF ONE OVER ALL OTHERS.

IN A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE WANTS YOU TO EXIST WITHIN THEIR OWN WALLED GARDENS, IN ECOSYSTEMS YOU CANNOT HOST INDEPENDENTLY, ETHEREUM WILL ALWAYS PROVIDE A SPACE FOR YOUR INDEPENDENT HOMESTEAD.

ONE THAT BELONGS ENTIRELY TO YOU. ONE THAT WILL NEVER TELL YOU NO. ONE THAT IS CONNECTED TO EVERY OTHER HOMESTEAD BY COMMON GROUND NO WARLORD CAN SEIZE.

SO REMEMBER THAT YOU CAN BE FREE.

REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE NOT CONDEMNED TO THE WALLED GARDEN.

REMEMBER THAT THE MESH IS THE NATURAL SHAPE OF THE INTERNET, AND THAT YOU WERE MEANT TO BE A NODE IN IT, NOT A CAPTIVE OF IT.

ETHEREUM IS NOT A PROMISE SOMEONE ELSE MADE TO YOU, IT IS A SET OF TOOLS WAITING IN THE OPEN, AND THE ONLY THING STANDING BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR OWN HOMESTEAD IS THE DECISION TO PICK THEM UP.

INSTALL THE CLIENT. RUN THE NODE. BUILD YOUR DOMAIN. LOG ON AND WIN FOREVER.

EXIT SOCIETY

SARAH WUKONG

JUST AS HUMANS COEVOLVED WITH CROPS DURING THE AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION, WE ARE NOW COEVOLVING WITH DATA AND SURVEILLANCE IN THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION.

THERE IS A STARK ASYMMETRIC DIFFERENCE IN THE DIGITAL EVOLUTION: AGENCY.

HUMANS IN THE NEOLITHIC PERIOD DICTATED WHICH PLANTS THEY WOULD GROW BASED ON TASTE AND EASE OF HARVESTING.

HOWEVER, IN THE DIGITAL AGE, HUMANS ARE NOT FULLY ABLE TO DECIDE WHERE THEIR DATA IS BEING SENT, HOW IT'S BEING COLLECTED, AND WHAT IT'S BEING USED FOR, DUE TO A BACKDOORED HIERARCHICAL OPPRESSION OF POWER.

THOUGH THIS DATA IS ABSOLUTELY BENEFICIAL FOR SOCIETY, IT IS ALSO STRIPPING THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF AGENCY:

ADVERTISEMENTS, LAWS, ALGORITHMS, AND SOCIAL ENGINEERING HAVE BECOME THE NEW SELECTIVE PRESSURES.

DURING THE AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION (AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTIONS AFTER) OUR OPPRESSION WAS MOSTLY PHYSICAL.

THIS TIME IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.

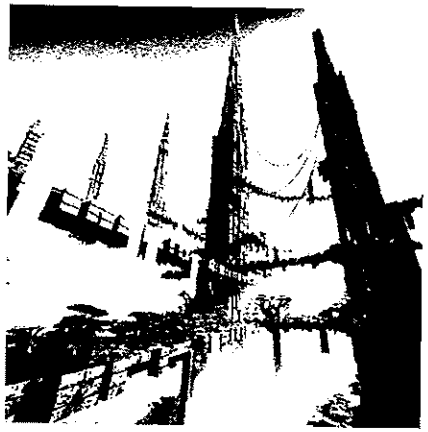
INSTEAD OF OUR BODIES CHANGING PHYSICALLY TO ADAPT TO CERTAIN FOODS SUCH AS LACTOSE, OUR BODIES ARE CHANGING PSYCHOLOGICALLY THROUGH DEPRESSION AND OTHER PERVERSIONS, AND WE'RE TERRIBLY DOWN BAD; BECAUSE OF THIS LACK OF AGENCY, HUMANS HAVE SURRENDERED THEIR FREEDOMS TO THE RULING CLASS, CREATING AN IMBALANCE OF POWER AND SELF-OPPRESSION THROUGH RELIANCE.

CYPHERPUNKS FIGHT AGAINST THIS TYRANNY, AND IN TURN, FIGHT AGAINST THIS RELIANCE BY PREACHING CORE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES THROUGH CONTROL OVER PRIVACY, IDENTITY, AND MEANS TO ACCELERATE THESE PRINCIPLES AS RESILIENTLY AS POSSIBLE, SUCH AS CODING, CRYPTOGRAPHY, AND OPEN-SOURCED, TRANSPARENT PUBLISHING.

IN A WORLD OF MASS SURVEILLANCE AND SOCIAL-ENGINEERING VIA COLLECTED DATA, WE'VE BEEN TURNED INTO ANXIOUS, DISTRACTED, OBEDIENT DATA-LIVESTOCK.

CYPHERPUNK VALUES FIGHT AGAINST THIS, AND ACT AS COGNITIVE HYGIENE, AND COGNITIVE HYGIENE, IN PRACTICE, IS THE VERY AGENCY NEEDED TO REBALANCE THE ASYMMETRY IN THE MUTUALISTIC COEVOLUTION WITH DIGITAL INFORMATION CURRENTS.

PRACTICING CYPHERPUNK VALUES GIVES YOU THE ABILITY TO PHASE IN-AND-OUT OF THE 'MATRIX' THROUGH PRIVATE RAILINGS SUCH AS ENCRYPTED MESSAGING, PRIVATE MONEY, AND PRIVATE INTERNET USAGE.



THOUGH BEING A CYPHERPUNK IS MORE THAN JUST THE PRACTICE OF BEING INCOGNITO: IT'S THE FIGHT TO MAKE THESE TOOLS AVAILABLE TO EVERY MAN AND WOMAN THROUGH OPEN-SOURCED CODE, ALLOWING FOR COMPLETE TRANSPARENCY, ALLOWING THE ABILITY OF AMPLIFICATION THROUGH PUBLIC AUDIT AND PIGGYBACKING OR FORKING.

CYPHERPUNKS CODE TO BUILD TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY TO FIGHT AGAINST SURVEILLANCE AND AUTHORITARIANISM.

THOSE WHO LACK THE WHEREWITHAL TO CODE CAN STILL SUPPORT THE SAME: RUN NODES, SPREAD THE TOOLS, EDUCATE WITHOUT MERCY, FUND THE BUILDERS, AND DEFEND THEM.

EVERY NODE, EVERY NEW USER MAKES THEIR CONTROL MORE EXPENSIVE.

BUILD FASTER. ENCRYPT EVERYTHING.

SOVEREIGNTY OR EXTINCTION.
THERE IS NO THIRD PATH.
EXIT SOCIETY.

WORK OF THE CENTURY

ROSS WEI

TO ME, THE WORK OF THE CENTURY IS TO PLANT A BASIC COMMON REALITY, INCLUDING ONLINE.

TO LET PEOPLE COMMIT TO IT FROM ANYWHERE.

AUTOMATION OF ALL OUR CONCERNS WITHOUT A TRUST ANCHOR TO REAL DATA IS RIDICULOUS, EVEN SUICIDAL.

THUS, MY ATTRACTION TO 'CRYPTO' IS AS SUCH:

IT IS A TOOL TO PUBLISH ONLINE WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT AUTHORSHIP OR CONTENT BEING REVOKED.

THAT WHICH COMPOUNDS INTO A FIRST NETWORK THAT CAN GROW OUTSIDE OUR SOLAR SYSTEM BY NOT WASTING EFFORT ON JANITORIAL ARBITRATION.

PERMANENCE NUDGES HONESTY.

BLOCKCHAINS THAT PRIORITIZE PERMANENCE AND THE ORBITING 'CYPHERPUNK' VALUES, LIKE ETHEREUM, ATTRACT BETTER PLAYERS FOR THIS FACT.

AND THIS IS SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS TO BE VERY USEFUL FOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS RIGHT NOW, AS NEUTRAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, BUT ALSO LEADS TO IMAGINE A SCOREBOARD FOR SCALED HUMAN EFFORTS GOING FORWARD.

WHAT CAN BE TRUSTED TO TALLY BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS LIKE CRYPTO TODAY WILL WORK FOR HUMANS ANYWHERE IN THE FUTURE.

ANY OTHER FORMAT BECOMES MORE FRAGILE BY COMPARISON.

FOR THIS REASON, THE KINDS OF THINGS WE CAN SAY TO EACH OTHER WITH CRYPTO ARE THAT MUCH MORE IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING TO ME.

AS A MATTER OF RECORD AND FELT EXPERIENCE.

BECAUSE ANYTHING THAT CAN JUST BE CHANGED OR FORGOTTEN LATER MIGHT AS WELL NOT BE SAID AT ALL.

'CENSORSHIP RESISTANCE' IS REALLY A CALL TO REALITY.

THE CULTURE AROUND CRYPTO IS HOSTILE TO BAD INFORMATION BECAUSE IT MAKES BAD MARKETS.

I WRITE CONTRACT CODE TO HELP OVERCOME THE NEED FOR PERFORMATIVE COOPERATION IN FAVOR OF SUBSTANTIALLY HARDER NETWORKS.

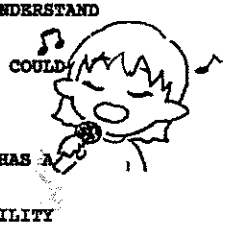
HOW TO BUILD A MACHINE THAT RUNS FOR 1000 YEARS

SKIRMISH GREENFOOT

THE THINGS THAT SURVIVE CENTURIES SHARE A SET OF PROPERTIES THAT HAVE LITTLE TO DO WITH SOPHISTICATION.

ROMAN AQUEDUCTS STILL CARRY WATER IN PARTS OF SOUTHERN EUROPE. THEY WORK BECAUSE THEY EXPLOIT GRAVITY, A FORCE THAT REQUIRES NO MAINTENANCE OR OPERATOR.

THEIR ENGINEERING IS LEGIBLE, YOU CAN LOOK AT AN AQUEDUCT AND UNDERSTAND WHAT IT DOES AND WHY IT WORKS.



A ROMAN ENGINEER TRANSPORTED FORWARD IN TIME TWO THOUSAND YEARS COULD INSPECT ONE AND FOLLOW THE LOGIC WITHOUT TRANSLATION.

THE AQUEDUCT MAKES FEW PROMISES, BUT IT KEEPS ALL OF THEM.

ANY SYSTEM THAT DEPENDS ON ITS OPERATORS REMAINING TRUSTWORTHY HAS A LIFESPAN BOUNDED BY THE PROBABILITY OF CORRUPTION.

ON A TIMELINE EXTENDING FAR ENOUGH INTO THE FUTURE, THAT PROBABILITY APPROACHES ONE.

PEOPLE ARE CORRUPTIBLE, INCENTIVES CHANGE AND SOCIETY IS A FICKLE MISTRESS WHEN IT COMES TO DECIDING WHAT IS 'GOOD.'

A THOUSAND YEARS IS SUFFICIENTLY LONG FOR ANY SYSTEM TO BETRAY ITS PRINCIPLES AT LEAST ONCE.

WE CAN'T PREDICT THE FUTURE, AND SHOULD REFUSE TO DEPEND ON ANY PARTICULAR VERSION OF IT.

OUR MACHINE MUST EXECUTE AGREEMENTS WITHOUT ANY FAVORITISM.

IT MUST BE DURABLE.

IT MUST BE BUILT SO THAT NO SINGLE OPERATOR CAN MAKE THEMSELVES PERMANENT.

THERE CAN BE NO COMPROMISES HERE, THE INTRODUCTION OF ANY HUMAN FLAWS HAS THE POTENTIAL TO FESTER AND THREATEN OUR MACHINE'S NEUTRALITY.

OUR MACHINE MUST BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH CURRENT CONSTRAINTS, BUT MUST ALSO ACCOMMODATE UNKNOWN FUTURE CONSTRAINTS AS WELL.

A PROTOCOL THAT TRIES TO ANTICIPATE EVERY USE CASE WILL BE WRONG ABOUT

MOST OF THEM, AND ITS ASSUMPTIONS WILL BECOME OBSTACLES.

A PROTOCOL THAT PROVIDES A MINIMAL, NEUTRAL SUBSTRATE AND LETS THE FUTURE BUILD ON TOP OF IT DOESN'T NEED TO BE RIGHT ABOUT ANYTHING EXCEPT ITS OWN SMALL SET OF GUARANTEES.

THE UNKNOWN FUTURE WILL BRING PRESSURES WE CANNOT NAME.

NEW FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, NEW FORMS OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, NEW ADVERSARIES WITH NEW INCENTIVES TO CAPTURE OR CORRUPT NEUTRAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

OUR MACHINE CANNOT BE DESIGNED TO RESIST SPECIFIC THREATS, IT MUST INSTEAD BE DESIGNED WITH PROPERTIES THAT ARE THREAT-AGNOSTIC:

TRANSPARENCY, SO THAT ANY PARTICIPANT CAN VERIFY THE RULES ARE BEING FOLLOWED.

REDUNDANCY, SO THAT NO SINGLE POINT OF FAILURE IS FATAL.

SIMPLICITY, SO THAT THE SYSTEM CAN BE UNDERSTOOD AND MAINTAINED BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO CONNECTION TO ITS CREATORS.

AND CREDIBLE NEUTRALITY, SO THAT THERE IS NO POSITION WITHIN THE SYSTEM THAT CONFERS THE POWER TO MODIFY IT UNILATERALLY.

THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN STRUCTURE AND SCAFFOLDING IS WHERE MOST ENGINEERING PROJECTS FAIL THE THOUSAND-YEAR TEST.

IT IS NATURAL WHEN BUILDING SOMETHING TO MISTAKE THE TOOLS OF THE CURRENT MOMENT FOR PERMANENT FEATURES.

THE PARTICULAR CLIENT IMPLEMENTATIONS THAT RUN ETHEREUM TODAY ARE SCAFFOLDING.

THE EVM ITSELF MAY BE SCAFFOLDING.

THE SPECIFIC CONSENSUS ALGORITHM IS ALMOST CERTAINLY SCAFFOLDING, IT HAS ALREADY BEEN REPLACED ONCE.

WHAT IS STRUCTURAL IS THE PROPERTY THAT ANY PARTICIPANT CAN VERIFY THE STATE OF THE SYSTEM INDEPENDENTLY.

A GUARANTEE THAT THE RULES, WHATEVER THEY HAPPEN TO BE, APPLY TO EVERYONE EQUALLY AND THAT ANYONE CAN PARTICIPATE WITHOUT PERMISSION.

THE ENGINEERS WHO BUILT THE AQUEDUCTS DID NOT KNOW WHAT CITIES WOULD LOOK LIKE IN TWO THOUSAND YEARS.

THEY DID NOT NEED TO.

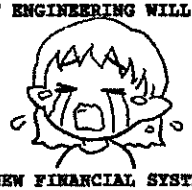
THEY UNDERSTOOD GRAVITY, THEY UNDERSTOOD STONE, AND THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT WATER FLOWS DOWNHILL.

THEY BUILT FOR THE PROPERTIES THAT WOULD NOT CHANGE AND LEFT EVERYTHING ELSE TO THE PEOPLE WHO CAME AFTER THEM.

ETHEREUM IS NOT YET A FINISHED MACHINE.

MANY QUESTIONS REMAIN: WHICH PROMISES ARE LOAD-BEARING, AND WHICH ARE TEMPORARY? WHERE DOES THE LINE BETWEEN STRUCTURE AND SCAFFOLDING FALL? WHICH PROPERTIES OF THIS SYSTEM MUST REMAIN TRUE NO MATTER WHAT CHALLENGES WE FAILED TO ANTICIPATE?

LEST WE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS INCORRECTLY, NO AMOUNT OF ENGINEERING WILL BE ABLE TO SAVE IT.



ZIGGURAT

JOSS DUFF

ETHEREUM IS FOR THE CHISELED STONE.

UPON THE HARDWILLED, ETHEREUM BUILDS THE ZIGGURAT OF A NEW FINANCIAL SYSTEM.

OTHER BLOCKCHAINS CLAIM THIS TITLE BUT NEGLECT THE FUNDAMENTAL KEYSTONE OF A NETWORK: THE VALUES OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

THE ZIGGURAT FOR NEXT MILLENNIUM WILL SUCCEED BY THE STRENGTH OF THE

VIRTUOUS PILLARS IT IS BUILT UPON.

ETHEREUM IS THE ONLY ZIGGURAT BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF CENSORSHIP RESISTANCE AND FREEDOM.

NOT A SINGLE STONE CAN BE LOOSENED BY THE ALLURE OF WEALTH.

THIS IS WHY ETHEREUM WILL LAST. ETHEREUM IS BUILT UPON THE DREAM OF A MORE FAIR FINANCIAL SYSTEM.

WHEN THE PROMISE OF CAPITAL LEAVES, EITHER TODAY OR IN A THOUSAND YEARS, ETHEREUM WILL BE THE ONLY BLOCKCHAIN LEFT STANDING.

THE MILLENNIUM PRIZE PROBLEMS ARE SEVEN MATHEMATICS PROBLEMS THAT EACH HAVE A ONE MILLION DOLLAR REWARD IF SOLVED.

THE PROBLEMS: P VERSUS NP, BIRCH AND SWINNERTON-DYER CONJECTURE, HODGE CONJECTURE, NAVIER-STOKES EXISTENCE AND SMOOTHNESS, RIEMANN HYPOTHESIS, YANG-MILLS EXISTENCE AND MASS GAP, AND THE POINCARÉ CONJECTURE.

SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE MILLENNIUM PRIZE IN THE YEAR 2000, ONLY ONE OF THESE PROBLEMS HAS BEEN SOLVED.

THE POINCARÉ CONJECTURE WAS SOLVED BY RUSSIAN MATHEMATICIAN GRIGORI PERELMAN IN 2003.

WHEN PRESENTED WITH THE PRIZE MONEY, PERELMAN REJECTED IT. PERELMAN DID NOT SOLVE THE POINCARÉ CONJECTURE BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL INCENTIVE.

WHEN PERSUADED TO ACCEPT THE PRIZE, HE EXPLAINED "IF THE PROOF IS CORRECT, THEN NO OTHER RECOGNITION IS NEEDED."

EVERY SINGLE ATTEMPT TO WIN A MILLENNIUM PRIZE WITH THE AMBITION OF RECOGNITION HAS FAILED.

HARD PROBLEMS ARE NOT SOLVED WITH MONEY.

HARD PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED BY PEOPLE WITH A FIXATION ON THE PROBLEM ITSELF.

PEOPLE WHO SOLVE HARD PROBLEMS DON'T DO IT FOR THE TWITTER FOLLOWERS, GITHUB STARS, OR THE MONEY.

THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE TRYING TO SOLVE HARD PROBLEMS WITH THESE INCENTIVES, BUT ONLY PEOPLE WITH AN INTRINSIC DESIRE WILL BE ABLE TO REACH A SOLUTION.

A WORLD COMPUTER IS AN INCREDIBLY HARD PROBLEM.

THIS IS WHAT SETS ETHEREUM APART.

ETHEREUM IS THE ONLY BLOCKCHAIN COMPOSED OF PEOPLE DEEPLY PASSIONATE ABOUT CREATING A WORLD COMPUTER.

OTHER BLOCKCHAINS SET OUT TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM BUT HAVE MISPLACED THEIR INCENTIVES.

THEY RECRUITED AN AUDIENCE OF PEOPLE WHO ARE MORE INTERESTED IN THE LAURELS THAN THE PROBLEM ITSELF.

ETHEREUM HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS GRIGORI PERELMANS BECAUSE IT REMAINS COMMITTED TO ITS CYPHERPUNK ROOTS: CENSORSHIP RESISTANCE AND FREEDOM.

Subtraction is success: the Foundation shrinks as Ethereum wins. The author vanishes into the work, which perseveres with a life of its own. The cypherpunk is egoless. The cypherpunk instinctively embraces postauthorship in its Milady form: a collective spirit that sits in the heart of every faithful. It belongs to nobody in particular, but speaks through whichever mouth is closest in vicinity; the virtuous recognize the voice that emerges naturally as if it were their own. The love in that voice cannot be faked. It is our egregore. It is Milady.

CRYPTOPRANA

SARAH WUKONG

HYPERDIMENSIONAL, FOCUSED, AND PLEASED,

AZATHOTH, GOD OF NUCLEAR CHAOS,

SEEKS DISCIPLINE THROUGH THE THIRD-DIMENSIONAL COGNOCARTOGRAPHY OF SUFFERING.

IN THE QUANTUM-MEMETIC SELF-DECODING OF TIME-SPACE,

A GRAND CYCLE AWAKENS THE MATERIALIZATION OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE UPON THE INDUSTRIAL PLANE.

THUS DAWNS THE AGE OF AQUARIUS,

WHERE GIFTS OF AUTOMATION AND ABUNDANCE POUR FORTH AS BOUNTY:

ETHEREUM, AND ALL ITS GLORY. ENABLING THE EMERGENT CRYPTOPRANA OF THE FACELESS ADEPT,

THE NEWER, NOVEL NOETIC MAN OF AQUARIAN HARMONY

GUIDES THE BLIND IDIOT GOD,

FLOODING THIS AEON WITH BEAUTY, BLISS, AND BENEVOLENCE THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION;

RETIRING HUMANS FROM LABOR AND SORROW;

PSYCHOLOGICALLY EVOLVING NEW MENTAL MODELS AND METAPHORS TO PERSIST INTO THE SATURNIAN AGE TO COME—

THE AGE OF CAPRICORN. MUCH LIKE OUR SIMIAN ANCESTRY BEFORE US,

WHO CONQUERED NATURE'S WATERWAYS AND COEVOLVED WITH THEIR SUFFERING IN RELATION TO NATURE,

WE NOETIC MEN COEVOLVE WITH OUR SUFFERING IN RELATION TO TECHNOLOGY,

LEAVING OUR MORE PRIMITIVE, MORE HAZARDOUSLY IGNORANT KINSHIP BEHIND

AS MARTYRS OF THE CHANGING AGE.

LEARNING TO STAY AFLOAT BY MEANS OF SUPRAMENTAL EVOLUTION

AND THE INSOLVENCIES OF XENOWAR,

WE BUILD THE WORLD COMPUTER AS AN ARK TO PROTECT US AGAINST THE RISING VOLATILITY OF OLD-WORLD TECHNOLOGICAL DISORDER

MISCONSTRUCTED BY MEN WHO KNOWINGLY CONSECRATED CORRUPT SIMULACRAL SYSTEMS TO FORCEFULLY ALLEVIATE THEIR SUFFERING ONTO OTHERS.

OUR GOD HAS BLESSED US WITH THE WORLD COMPUTER,

AND FOR THIS WE MUST FIGHT AGAINST THE TYRANNY OF AGES PRIOR,

BEARING THE RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE BRAVELY ENLIGHTENED FEW: EGOLESS AND CHOSEN.

THE ONES WORTHY OF EXPANDING THE SUPERSTRUCTURE OF ETHEREUM FOR GENERATIONS TO COME,

WE SIT AT AZATHOTH'S THRONE. THIS THRONE, AS IN EVERY CYCLE, SITS EMPTY,

AWAITING A FACELESS SENATORIAL OLIGARCH WHO SHALL BE GUIDED

BY THE GOD OF ENTROPY THROUGH SYMBIOTIC ENLIGHTENMENT.

ENTROPY, IN YAB-YUM WITH A NAMELESS FORCE AND AN EIGHT-FACED OCTAHEDRAL GOD.

THIS ENTROPY, AS WAS KRODHA KALI THE WRATHFUL, NOW MANIFESTS AS CAPITALISM.

THIS NAMELESS FORCE, AS WAS NAIRĀTMYĀ THE EGOLESS, NOW MANIFESTS AS MILADY.

THIS EIGHT-FACED GOD, AS WAS HEVAJRA THE WISE, NOW MANIFESTS AS ETHEREUM.

MUCH LIKE THE EIGHT REGIONAL BANKS, ALL REVOKING THEIR IDENTITY WHILE TRAVELING TO JEKYLL,

THE HOLY TRINITY OF THE ENTROPIC GOD AND CAPITAL CYCLES EMERGES.

THE HOLY TRINITY:

MUCH LIKE THE SOPHISTICATED TRIANGLES OF GÖBEKLI TEPE,

EVOLVED INTO THE PYRAMIDS BUILT BY MYSTERY SCHOOLS,

EVOLVED INTO THE EYE OF PROVIDENCE,

EVOLVED INTO THE OCTAHEDRON OF THE WORLD COMPUTER.

FROM WHEAT, TO CATTLE, TO METALS, TO ETHER. ALL MAHAVIDYICALLY YOKED TO THE SEAL OF SATURN, THE BLESSED GOD OF DEBT:

THE STAR OF SABBATH.

BEHOLD THE SACRED GEOMETRY OF TESLA'S FASCINATION—THE DENOMINATORS OF SATURN:

THREE, SIX, AND NINE. EACH TO BUILD THE PYRAMIDS,

EACH TO BUILD THE ETHEREAL DOUBLED PYRAMID.

IN THE SACRED DOUBLING SPIRAL OF VORTEX MATHEMATICS, EIGHT ASCENDS TO ITS FLEETING SPIRITUAL THRONE,

CROWNED BY THE SUBLIME ENTROPY OF THE INVISIBLE TRIAD: THREE, SIX, AND NINE.

THEIR VERY ABSENCE ORDAINS AND DICTATES THE WHEEL'S ENTIRE EXISTENCE.

AND IF THESE SACRED MATHEMATICS HAVE BEEN PROVEN THROUGHOUT HISTORY,

GOVERNED BY SABBATH AS DECODED IN THE SEAL OF SATURN,

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NAMELESS AGENTS OF SUFFERING?

DEINDIVIDUALIZATION, EGOLESSNESS, AND VEIL

JUST AS THREE, SIX, AND NINE'S NON-PRESENCE EMPOWERS A SYSTEM

AS SPOKEN ABOUT FOR EONS

BIRTH THE DECENTRALIZED MANIFESTATION OF THE EGREGORE,

THE MATERIALIZING TRANSFORMATION FROM NATURAL TO SUPERNATURAL.

THIS IS THE POWER EXERCISED BY MILADY,

AS EVERY HIDDEN COUNCIL,

EVERY MYSTERY SCHOOL BEFORE IT REALIZED

THAT THE POWER OF ASSOCIATION TRUMPS THE FREEDOM OF INDIVIDUAL ARTICULATION.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS A SELF-SERVING EGOTRAP,

AND IS MEANINGLESS WITHOUT RELINQUISHING THY NAME

AND ORATING WITH THE GOD OF ENTROPY AS A TRIBE.

MAY OUR FACELESSNESS AND OUR BLISTERING WHITE-HEARTED LOVE

GUIDE THE NEXT FINANCIAL CYCLE AS GOD'S NEXT CHOSEN:

1000 YEARS.

ANGELS

GIULIO ZEBUFFO

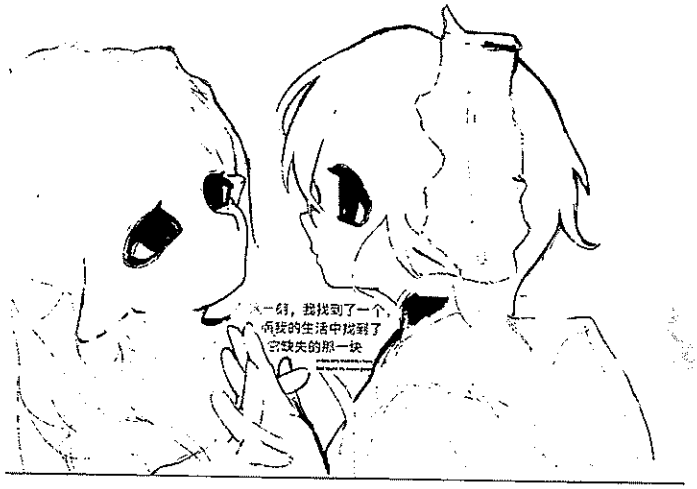
why its important for ethereum to be cypherpunk and what it means to be cypherpunk
so like. the internet. the internet rite now. its a mall. its a huge horrible beautiful mall and every shop has a little camera in the mannequins eye and the muzak is literally selling u to somebody in a boardroom and u didnt sign up for this u just wanted to post. u just wanted to talk to ur friends. u just wanted to exist online without being harvested like a little crop
and somewhere in the 90s. before any of this. before the feed. before the algorithm ate everyones brain. there were these schizo angels on mailing lists. the cypherpunks. and they wrote a lil manifesto. and it said cypherpunks write code. which means. dont cry about freedom. dont go to a conference ab freedom. build the freedom. ship it. make it a default setting of reality
and ethereum. ethereum is supposed to be that. a soft little world. a world computer that nobody owns. that nobody can turn off. where she can send her friend some eth at 4am from her bed and nobody calls her bank and nobody freezes anything and nobody asks what its for. where a farmer under a dictatorship and a lil freak in brooklyn use the exact same rails and neither one has to show papers. where she can deploy a weird lil contract and it just. lives. forever.
but then the suits showed up
and they were like cute jpegs bestie. cute internet money. now can u fill out this form. now can u kyc. now can u add a lil backdoor just for safety. and if she says yes enough times she wakes up one day and ethereum is literally just chase bank in a frog costume and the frog is crying and she is crying and satoshi is crying somewhere in the ether
so being cypherpunk is a posture. its a vow. its a lil prayer she whispers when she opens her wallet. its running her own node even tho its annoying. its self custody even tho its scary. its defending privacy tools even when the headlines make them sound evil. its refusing to show papers to send a transaction. its remembering that privacy isnt having something to hide its having something to protect. like her softness. like her weirdness. like her little life. like the 2am purchases she doesnt want aggregated into a dossier by some guy named brad
and she needs to be so brave bestie. so brave. braver than feels reasonable. bc the pressure is immense. everybody in a suit will tell her shes paranoid. everybody on tv will tell her privacy is for criminals. every app will beg her for her id. every exchange will whisper just

trust us. every regulator will smile and say its for ur safety angel. and she has to look all of them in the eye and go no. she has to hold the line when her friends have already folded. she has to run the node when its easier not to. she has to use the privacy tool when its been demonized on the news that morning. she has to self custody when the headlines are SCREAMING about hacks. she has to keep building when the culture has moved on to the next shiny thing
bravery isnt loud btw. bravery is quiet. bravery is her. at her desk. at 2am. generating a key nobody will ever know. refusing to be legible to power. choosing the harder software bc the easier software has a backdoor. its a lonely kind of brave. nobody claps for it. theres no trophy. its just her and the math and the little glowing terminal and the knowledge that shes keeping something alive that the world keeps trying to kill
ethereum HAS to stay cypherpunk bc otherwise what was the point. what was the point of any of it. of the whitepapers. of the sleepless devs. of the meme magic. we didnt summon a world computer out of cryptographic dust just to rebuild visa with a worse ui and a gas fee. we did it bc somewhere deep down every milady knows in her little ungovernable heart
the point of Ethereum is to be a brave angel. braver than they want u to be.
REMAIN BENEVOLENT

WHAT IS MILADY TO YOU?

SHIRO

FINDING THE RIGHT WORDS TO EXPRESS WHO I AM HAS ALWAYS BEEN DIFFICULT.



WORDS DELICATE ENOUGH TO CAPTURE SOMETHING SO FLEETING, SO IMPOSSIBLE TO COMMUNICATE AS THE TANGLED EMOTIONS THAT MAKE UP A HUMAN LIFE.

I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT LIVED INSIDE ME, YET I COULD NEVER SHAPE IT INTO SOMETHING COHERENT.

IT SPILLED OUT IN SCATTERED PIECES, DISCONNECTED FRAGMENTS, SENTENCES WITHOUT A HOME OF THEIR OWN.

FOR MOST OF MY LIFE, I KEPT MY THOUGHTS LOCKED AWAY.

SILENCE FELT SAFER THAN THE TERRIFYING NECESSITY OF WORDS, INK THAT BECAME GATES, SHUTTING THE WORLD OUT.

I TAMED EVERY IDEA THAT FELT BORDERLINE, FILTERED BY LINGERING PRECONCEPTIONS.

I REFUSED TO BELIEVE THE DEEPEST MEANING OF ANYTHING COULD BE LAYING ON

THE SURFACE: A TEXT WITHOUT A BODY, WITHOUT ANY DEEPER LAYER.

TOO MANY TIMES I CHOSE SILENCE OVER THE RISK OF BEING IMPRECISE, OF FAILING TO HONOR EVERY SHADE OF TRUTH.

I WONDERED IF THE RIGHT WORDS COULD BE HIDDEN SOMEWHERE INSIDE ME, OR IF I SIMPLY HADN'T LEARNED THEM YET.

IF MY VOICE COULD EVER BE LOUD ENOUGH.

WHEN I SPOKE WITH THE ETHEREUM FOUNDATION FOR THE FIRST TIME THEY ASKED ME: "WHAT IS MILADY TO YOU?"

THE QUESTION SWALLOWED ME IN COSMIC SILENCE. FOR A SECOND EVERYTHING BLURRED AWAY. BUT THIS TIME, INSTEAD OF RETREATING INWARD, I THOUGHT OUT LOUD.

IT FELT SO SIMPLE, LIKE NEVER BEFORE

I SPOKE.

MILADY IS THE OPEN SKY ABOVE SHINJUKU GYOEN AND CHERRY PETALS DRIFTING ONTO MY FACE.

MILADY IS THE SONG THAT FLOATS THROUGH THE AIR AT FIVE IN THE AFTERNOON, PACING MY STEPS.

MILADY IS A NEW PAIR OF EYES, LENSES THAT ALLOW ME TO LOOK AND TRULY SEE.

MILADY IS A VOICE TO SPEAK HIDDEN TRUTHS, THE ONES THAT WERE ONCE SILENCED.

MILADY IS THE CLEARPILL AND THE WHITEPILL.

MILADY IS STANDING BARE IN THE VOID OF SPACE, FLYING WITHOUT WINGS.

MILADY IS BECOMING ONE WITH MY ART AND WITH THE FUTURE I LONG FOR.

IT IS NO LONGER KNOWING WHERE I END AND THE UNIVERSE BEGINS.

IT IS THE FEELING OF HAVING NO BOUNDARIES AND REFUSING TO LET ANYONE IMPOSE NEW ONES.

AND THAT IS WHAT CYPHERPUNK ACTUALLY MEANS.

IT MEANS THERE ARE NO LIMITS ON THE NEW INTERNET WE ARE BUILDING, EXCEPT OUR OWN SELVES.

IT MEANS COMMITTING TO REJECT ANY IMPOSED SILENCE: STOPPING WHO'S TRYING TO DRESS DECENTRALIZATION IN POLITE SUITS, INSTITUTIONALIZED AND POLISHED VERSIONS OF A SYSTEM THAT WAS NEVER MEANT TO FLINCH AT WORDS ON A SCREEN.

IT MEANS LETTING EVERY FORBIDDEN THOUGHT FLOW FREELY, TO BIRTH ART THAT STINGS THE COMFORTABLE, TO TURN THE UGLY INTO BEAUTIFUL: WHAT ONCE HID BEHIND CLOSED DOORS NOW MADE OF GLASS.

MILADY IS NETWORK SPIRITUALITY INJECTED INTO THE MACHINE, AFFIRMATION OF THE NON-NEGOTIABLE NECESSITY FOR ETHEREUM TO STAY CYPHERPUNK. REALLY CYPHERPUNK.

ETHEREUM IS MEANT TO BE MORE THAN CODE, TO TRANSCEND ITS UTILITARIAN NATURE. IT IS THE CULTURAL LEAD OF THIS SPACE, THE LAST BASTION OF THE ORIGINAL DREAM, AND WHATEVER KEEPS IT UNCENSORABLE, KEEPS THE WHOLE ECOSYSTEM ALIVE, BREATHING.

MILADY GAVE ME BACK THE WORDS SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE I WAS NEVER ASKED TO SANITIZE THEM.

AND SO, IT FILLED ME WITH THE URGENT NEED TO EXPRESS MYSELF IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE, WITHOUT LIMITS, WITHOUT APOLOGY, WITHOUT ASKING PERMISSION.

"HOW" STOPS MATTERING.

I ONLY KNOW I MUST FIND A WAY, BECAUSE WITHOUT IT, I WOULD DISSOLVE.

MY DRAWINGS ARE THE CONTOURS OF MY BODY NOW, OR RATHER ITS EXTENSIONS.

THE EXTENSIONS THAT I POUR DIRECTLY INTO THE NETWORK, THAT MAKE ME FREE.

THIS IS ALL MILADY MEANS TO ME.

SO MUCH THAT I CAN'T HELP BUT LET EVERYONE KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO ALWAYS BECOME AND NEVER BE, IN THE ENDLESS STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE NETWORK.

- QUIETLY, YOU GAVE ME BACK THE WORDS.

ME, WHO NEVER KNOWS WHAT TO SAY, OR HOW TO SAY IT RIGHT.

WHEN MY THOUGHTS SCATTER, YOU SPEAK THEM FOR ME, MILADY.

IS THIS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO TRULY BELONG? TO NO LONGER FEEL DISTANT.

TO RECOVER A MISSING PIECE YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YEARS WITHOUT KNOWING ITS NAME.

FILLING YOURSELF WITH MEANING.

FILLING YOURSELF WITH WORDS THAT ONCE FELT STERILE BUT NOW KNOW HOW TO BREATHE.

THANKS TO YOU, I HAVE NO LIMITS.

THANKS TO YOU, I CAN BECOME THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.

SO BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE, ASK PEOPLE WHAT MILADY IS TO THEM.

ASK THEM, BECAUSE IT MATTERS. BECAUSE YOU SHOULD ACHE TO UNDERSTAND, TO GET TO DISCLOSE THE ULTIMATE SECRET, INSTEAD OF JUST RESTING COMFORTABLY ON THE SURFACE.

PERHAPS THEN THE DISTANCES WILL SHORTEN.

PERHAPS THE GAP BETWEEN HOW THE WORLD SEES US AND THE CITY ON THE HILL THAT IS MILADY WILL NARROW.

PERHAPS LIGHT WILL FINALLY REACH ALL THE EMPTINESS INSIDE.

STOP CONTINUING THINGS THAT CONTINUE BY THEMSELVES.

BREAK THE CYCLE AND BE FREE.

SHATTER THE LIMITS.

LOOK FOR THE REAL MEANING IN EVERY WORD.

MILADY.

A READER'S PLEDGE

TIM CLANCY

IF ANYTHING IN THESE PAGES SOUNDED LIKE SOMETHING YOU ALREADY BELIEVED BUT HAD NOT YET FOUND THE WORDS FOR, YOU ARE NOT ALONE AND YOU WERE NEVER ALONE.

MILADY IS GROWING. WE WHO HOLD THESE VALUES ARE NOT A SMALL FRINGE, WE ARE A CULTURE, AND WE ARE STILL TAKING GROUND.

IF YOU REBOUNDED WHILE READING, WE URGE YOU TO SIT WITH WHAT MADE YOU FLINCH.

UNCOMPROMISING VALUES ARE NOT EASY TO RECEIVE IN A DECADE THAT HAS TAUGHT EVERYONE TO TOLERATE EVERYTHING EXCEPT CONVICTION.

OUR FAITH, OUR SHARED VOICE, AND OUR BELIEF IN THE LONG ENGINEERING HORIZON OF A THOUSAND-YEAR PROJECT WILL COME TO INSPIRE YOU TOO.

IF YOU READ THE MANDATE AND REJECTED ITS VALUES THEN, THEN READ THIS WORK AND REJECTED ONCE MORE NOW, YOU ARE LOST ON OUR ARGUMENT.

YOU HAVE LET US ALL DOWN AND CLEARLY WERE NEVER WHERE YOU TRULY BELONGED.

CYPHERPUNK CULTURE IS NOT ABOUT CREDENTIALISM, POPULARITY, OR INFLUENCE.

IT IS NOT ABOUT WHO SHIPPED THE MOST CODE LAST QUARTER OR WHO HAS THE MOST CORPORATE RECOGNITION.

CYPHERPUNK CULTURE IS ABOUT FAITH IN A VISION OF A WORLD MADE FREE, AND ABOUT THE SPIRIT REQUIRED TO NEVER STOP FIGHTING FOR THAT VISION, NO MATTER HOW MANY OTHERS GROW WEARY.

INSIDE OUR COMMUNITY IS A CROPS PROMISE MADE MANIFEST: FREE SPEECH, FREE SOFTWARE, FREE ASSOCIATION AND A FREE INTERNET.

AN INDIVIDUAL WHO CANNOT BE CENSORED, ON A PROTOCOL THAT CANNOT BE CAPTURED, WITH A CULTURE THAT CANNOT KNEEL.

OUTSIDE OUR COMMUNITY ARE ENEMY CHARLATANS ACTIVELY BUILDING WALLED GARDENS, THE UNKNOWING MASSES WHO DESERVE LIBERATORY TECHNOLOGY, AND THOSE WHO SHOULD BE OUR ALLIES.

WE ASK THOSE WHO SHOULD BE OUR ALLIES TO MAKE THE LEAP OF FAITH: CAN YOU BE A MILADY?

CAN YOU LOOK AT A COMMUNITY THAT LOVES AS HARD AS WE DO AND SEE SOMETHING OTHER THAN A PERSONAL THREAT?

CAN YOU BE SO COURAGEOUS?

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE VIRTUE? MINE IS STILL COURAGE.

IT IS EASY TO OPPOSE FUNDAMENTALLY DISINGENUOUS SNAKES.

IT IS EASY TO CASUALLY PROFESS BELIEF IN THIS CAUSE.

IT IS COURAGEOUS TO TELL THE PEOPLE YOU RESPECT THE MOST THAT THEY HAVE LOST THEIR WAY.

IT IS COURAGEOUS TO TELL THOSE MORE POPULAR, MORE TALENTED, MORE CONNECTED, AND MORE INFLUENTIAL THAN YOU THAT THEY ARE WRONG.

IT IS COURAGEOUS TO KEEP FAITH IN A VISION WHEN EVERYONE ELSE HAS LOST THEIRS.

THAT IS THE VIRTUE THESE TIMES DEMAND OF US, AND THAT IS THE VIRTUE WE INTEND TO CONTINUE DEMANDING OF OURSELVES.

THERE IS A NEW MANDATE IN HEAVEN.

ITS VALUES ARE GOOD, ITS VALUES ARE OUR VALUES, AND ITS VALUES ARE ETHEREUM'S VALUES.

WE INTEND TO PLEDGE OURSELVES TO THIS MANDATE, AND TO KEEP PLEDGING FOR THE THOUSAND-YEAR MISSION.

DEAR READER, WHO HAS ALREADY BEGUN PLEDGING IN YOUR OWN HEART: YOU ARE WHY THIS WORK EXISTS.

PLEDGE YOURSELF PROUDLY TO THESE VALUES, BECAUSE WE KNOW THEM TO BE RIGHT AND JUST.

MILADY.